global fund for children



Global Fund for Children

Fall 2026 Impact Report

Cover photo: Students from Peace for People in Nepal

As the year draws to a close, we're reflecting on what we've made possible together to help ensure more children and young people can experience a safe, supported, and joyful childhood.

You'll meet the community organizations responding to devastating floods in Nepal, helping families recover and children return to a sense of normalcy. You'll also meet Petronila, whose own experience with a GFC partner inspired her to become an educator and help other children from her community discover the joy and possibilities of learning.

These stories reflect what is possible when local leaders have the resources and support to respond to their communities' needs. This work is only possible because of supporters like you who believe every child deserves the chance to learn, grow, and thrive. Thank you for standing with them.

Bringing School to the Market

Every child deserves the chance to learn. But for many children and young people that basic right is far from guaranteed - particularly for girls and Indigenous children.

Petronila grew up working with her family in La Terminal - the largest public market in Guatemala City. Smart and eager to learn, Petronila struggled to balance school and the demands of her family's business.

While working at the market, Petronila met GFC's partner Asociacion Puerta de Esperanza ("Door of Hope"). Puerta de Esperanza brings education directly to children who can't leave work at the market to attend class. Teachers visit market stalls and homes to meet with young people, and to help mothers build their literacy skills so they can better support their children's education.

Petronila was able to get back on track with her studies, and become a mentor to other children and young people. She later trained as a preschool educator and joined Puerta de Esperanza's street outreach team, bringing learning support and encouragement directly to children who cannot regularly attend a formal school.

Today, Petronila returns to the same community where she grew up, meeting children where they live and work and helping them see what they can achieve. Because she has faced similar challenges, she offers more than academic support: Petronila is living proof that their circumstances do not have to define their futures.

> *Every small act of generosity makes a difference. It tells a child or young person, **'Yes, you can achieve your dreams.'**... Sometimes what seems like a small gesture ends up changing someone's life forever. **I am living proof of that."** - **Petrolina***

Stories like Puerta de Esperanza's show why community-led solutions matter. When local organizations have the resources, flexibility, and support to respond to what children and families say they need, they can create opportunities that reach far beyond a single program or classroom.

This commitment guides Global Fund for Children's work around the world: investing in grassroots organizations, strengthening their capacity, and ensuring that the people closest to the challenges have the resources and agency to lead change.



Photo credit: Petrolina being recognized as an ambassador of peace at the Peace Rose Exchange at the National Palace in Guatemala City, Guatemala in recognition of her incredible work in community.

When the Water Recedes, Partners Stay: Nepal Flood Response

On August 26, flash floods from the Trishuli River in Nepal tore through Rasuwa, Nuwakot, and Dhading, three districts north of Kathmandu.

It's difficult to imagine what that day must have been like for children and young people in those communities.

GFC staff contacted our community partners in the region right away to ask Are you safe? What do you need? Then we sent flexible emergency grants within days. Because GFC has worked alongside organizations in Nepal since 2021, there was no delay in getting these funds into the hands of trusted partners in the region.

In order to respond to the overwhelming needs of their communities, six GFC partners came together and built a coordinated plan. They knew what children and families needed most, divided up the affected areas, and made sure their efforts complemented one another.

> *"GFC has been walking alongside us for a long time, so when this crisis happened, there was already trust on both sides... We could focus our energy on listening to families and responding to what they were actually asking for."*
> *Binod Neupane, Executive Director, United Community Nepal*

With GFC's support, partners are meeting a range of urgent needs. **Kopila Nepal** is providing food, clean water, hygiene kits, warm clothing, and shelter, while **United Community Nepal** is supplying nutrition and lactation support for new mothers and their babies. **Peace for People** is bringing in community counselors and training frontline workers to provide psychosocial support.

For their communities to continue with a sense normalcy, **Bloom School Nepal** is opening safe centers where families can access supplies, classes, mental health services, and places to play. **Childreach Nepal** is helping children return to learning with school uniforms, emergency learning kits, teacher training, and classes.

Together, this work will reach approximately 5,000 people in some of the hardest-hit areas.

This is what trust-based funding makes possible. In our 2024 Global Impact Study, 94% of partners reported that GFC's flexible funding helped them respond to community needs and sustain essential activities during uncertainty. Today in Nepal, that looks like a child with warm clothes and a safe place, and a mother with the supplies to feed her baby.

And just as this work didn't start when the floods hit, it won't end when the physical damage has subsided.

> *During times like this, the relationships we have built with our partners matter more than ever. For GFC, [this] means standing alongside our partners, trusting their leadership and supporting them as the situation continues to evolve."*
> *— Shristi Joshi, Nepal Program Officer, GFC*

Emergencies are a reality for all of us - and are especially consequential children and young people, disrupting education, increasing poverty, and leading to increases in child marriage.

GFC is there in the first hours and days when an emergency strikes, and we stay as communities rebuild and families return to daily life. Headlines fade, but our commitment to supporting children and young people and local leaders remains.

Click here to read more about GFC's emergency response work.



Photo credit: Students supported by GFC partner Peace for People in Nepal

Help Make Childhood Possible

As December approaches, it's a time to reflect on the year behind us and on what lies ahead. At Global Fund for Children, we're thinking about what it takes to make childhood possible for children and young people around the world - and the community of supporters who make this work possible.

We believe that every child deserves a childhood. Over the next few weeks, you'll see stories in our emails and on our social media platforms about how GFC makes childhoods possible for children around the world through programs that help children learn, play, build resilience, stay safe, and create lasting change in their communities.

Because the truth is childhoods are not guaranteed. Too many children can't count on basic rights like education, safety, play, and opportunities to thrive.

Global Fund for Children exists to improve outcomes for children and young people the best way we know how - through local leaders who know what their community's young people need.



Photo credit: Young people supported by GFC partner LEEDO in Bangladesh

Since the USAID funding cuts, many of the organizations working to improve outcomes for children and young people are struggling with funding, have cut programs, or closed all together. This includes nearly half of GFC's partners. The support of our donor community is more important than ever in helping local organizations sustain their work and continue showing up for young people.

During our upcoming Winter Giving Campaign, we'll share more about how GFC and our partners are responding to these challenges and creating opportunities for children and young people. As you consider your charitable giving this year, we hope you'll include GFC. Your support can help fund an emergency response when disaster strikes, as it did during the floods in Nepal, or expand access to education for children like Petrolina in Guatemala.

If you'd like to make a contribution now, CLICK HERE!

Admin Corner

New address

Our Washington, DC and London teams have moved to new (and improved!) offices!

Should you need to reach us by mail, please use these new mailing addresses effective immediately:

Global Fund for Children
1152 15th Street NW, Suite 470
Washington, DC 20005

Global Fund for Children UK Trust
Work.Life, 6-7 St Cross Street
London EC1N 8UB
United Kingdom

DAF and IRA donations

You can now give through your Donor-advised Fund directly on our website! Visit the GFC donation page at globalfundforchildren.org/donate and select DAFpay as your payment method. Look for the light blue DAFpay logo.

Reminder that your retirement account might be an advantageous way to support GFC. We accept donations from Required Minimum Distributions, Qualified Charitable Distributions, and more.

Please contact Mea Geizhals with any questions at mgeizhals@globalfundforchildren.org.

Thank you for standing with us this year, and best wishes for the holidays and a happy new year!

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