



**PRESS RELEASE**

**Contact: Adlai J. Amor**

**(202) 222-0811; amor@globalfundforchildren.org**

## **The Global Fund for Children Defines New Investment Portfolios**

**WASHINGTON, Nov. 2, 2006** — The Global Fund for Children (GFC) has broadened its grassroots grantmaking into four new investment portfolios. These are Learning, Enterprise, Safety, and Healthy Minds and Bodies.

“These portfolios comprise the key elements needed by every child and youth to thrive. While they do not mark a significant departure from what we have traditionally supported, they offer us more flexibility in finding great programs,” said Maya Ajmera, president and founder of The Global Fund for Children. “These areas remain underfunded, have high potential for social return, and have models and mechanisms in place that portray children and youth positively and promote global citizenship.”

Each new portfolio supports a range of social enterprises:

- Learning programs afford children the opportunity to go to school where no such opportunity would otherwise exist.
- Enterprise programs encompass child- and youth-led enterprises, entrepreneurial and leadership training, and children’s banking and savings.
- Safety programs include protection from risk and exploitation such as child trafficking, sexual exploitation, and hazardous child labor.
- Healthy Minds and Bodies programs support psychosocial health, HIV/AIDS prevention and mitigation, and general health and wellness.

Complementing these primary portfolios are two others: Creative Opportunities, for innovative projects that do not fall into these four areas, and Responding to Crisis, for relief and rehabilitation work arising from emergencies.

Since 2002, GFC’s grantmaking has been organized into four portfolios: Schools and Scholarships, Preventing Hazardous Child Labor, Preventing Sexual Exploitation of Children, and the Distinctive Needs of Vulnerable Boys.

“These portfolios were useful in their specificity, as well as in defining territories of interest, investment, and experience,” said Victoria Dunning, director of GFC’s grantmaking program. “However, they did not always reflect local or regional conditions and often did not accurately describe the innovative approaches used by our grantee partners.”

Since 1997, The Global Fund for Children has awarded disbursed 1,147 grants valued at more than \$6.1 million to 239 grassroots organizations in 64 countries.