



**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **GFC Grants Over \$1.6 Million to 113 Groups in Fall 2007**

**WASHINGTON, October 31, 2007** — The Global Fund for Children (GFC) awarded 220 grants valued at more than \$1.6 million to 113 grassroots groups in 48 countries. The fall 2007 program grants represent a 25 percent increase in value over the awards given in fall 2006.

In keeping with GFC's model of small grants to community-based organizations, the average program grant was \$11,748.

Since making its first three grants, totaling \$3,100, in 1997, The Global Fund for Children has awarded 1,656 grants valued at more than \$9.3 million to 304 grassroots organizations in 65 countries.

GFC's grants are given under four major portfolios: Learning, Enterprise, Safety, and Healthy Minds and Bodies. 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 rapid-response, recovery, and renewal work arising from emergencies.

Nearly half the fall 2007 grants were in the Learning portfolio. The Safety and Enterprise portfolios accounted for 20 percent each, and Healthy Minds and Bodies accounted for 10 percent.

### **Learning Portfolio**

GFC awarded 47 Learning grants, totaling \$612,000, to fund programs that give children and youth the opportunity to go to school where no such opportunity would otherwise exist. Grantees include the following:

- In the low-income neighborhoods of the Kurdish-dominated city of Diyarbakir, in southeastern Turkey. GFC will provide early childhood education to 70 children through Umut Isigi (Light of Hope), a network of women leaders and mothers.

- A grant to the Uruj Learning Center will provide teachers and supplies to educate 700 girls in two primary schools established by villagers—using a combination of tents, mosques, and homes—in the remote province of Wardak, Afghanistan.

### **Enterprise Portfolio**

This portfolio funds programs that encompass youth enterprise, entrepreneurial and leadership training, and children’s banking and savings. GFC awarded 19 Enterprise grants, totaling \$215,500, including the following:

- On the outskirts of Monrovia, Liberia, GFC will support the Center for Women and Children Empowerment’s two resources centers, which provide after-school activities for children, including a chance to shadow members of the Liberian Parliament as they rebuild the country after years of war.
- By supporting the Yuva Parivartan (Youth Change) program of the Kherwadi Social Welfare Association, GFC will enable school dropouts and youth living in the slums of Mumbai, India, to benefit from vocational training in such areas as nursing, computers, fashion design, and motor mechanics.

### **Safety Portfolio**

A total of 20 Safety grants, valued at \$217,500, were awarded to fund programs that protect children and youth from risk and exploitation such as child trafficking, sexual exploitation, and hazardous child labor. Grantees include the following:

- In Kathmandu, Prisoners Assistance Nepal will use a GFC grant to prepare 40 adolescent female prisoners in the Central Female Jail for life after prison through literacy classes, vocational training, and employment counseling sessions.
- In Belgrade, Serbia, a GFC grant to Atina will help the organization to reintegrate girls and boys, mostly victims of sexual trafficking and labor exploitation, into their families by providing food, shelter, legal help, and medical assistance. The program is unusual in having the beneficiaries actively make decisions for themselves.

### **Healthy Minds and Bodies Portfolio**

GFC awarded 13 grants, valued at \$133,500, to fund programs that support psychosocial health, HIV/AIDS prevention and mitigation, and general health and wellness. Grantees include the following:

- In Chocó, the poorest and least developed region of Colombia, GFC will support a Fundación Chocó Joven (Young Chocó Foundation) program to reduce adolescent pregnancy and unsafe sexual practices while helping teens finish their education, gain employment, and improve their living standards.
- Unaccompanied child migrants and refugees will benefit from GFC’s support of The Suitcase Project—run by the Reginald Orsmond Counselling Services in Johannesburg, South Africa—which is an arts-based healing project that provides counseling and emergency support for basic needs like food and shelter.

### **Responding to Crisis Portfolio**

This portfolio funds programs that help children and young people recover from natural disasters and emergencies such as the Indian Ocean tsunami of December 2004 and Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. GFC awarded seven grants in all, valued at \$111,500, including the following:

- A grant will support the after-school and summer programs for 300 Vietnamese youth and children served by Vietnamese Initiatives in Economic Training in New Orleans, Louisiana. Activities include creation of a coed soccer team and tutoring to help Vietnamese youth earn their high school diplomas.
- In Sri Lanka, GFC will provide additional support to the Sunera Foundation to enable it to continue its innovative Tsunami Theatre Outreach Project, which uses theater and other performing arts to help children overcome their trauma from the tsunami.

In addition to these, GFC awarded four Creative Opportunities grants, valued at \$31,500, to community-based groups working in Turkey, Liberia, Indonesia, and the United States. Additional grants were given in areas such as organizational development and health and well-being.

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