

A photograph of three young children in a classroom setting. A girl in the foreground is focused on stacking colorful wooden rings. Two boys are looking on, one reaching for a yellow ring on the floor. The background shows a window with colorful decorations and a string of paper lanterns.

# CHILDREN-AT-RISK IMPACT FUND







DID YOU KNOW

# 320 million

people in Asia live on less than **USD2.15** a day?

## THE ISSUE

Children everywhere deserve to grow up in loving, safe environments. However, **children living in extreme poverty face unique challenges.**

Poverty creates significant stress for families, making it difficult to provide stable and nurturing environments. This economic hardship **forces families to prioritise survival over education and health, putting children at risk of malnutrition, poor health, and lack of educational opportunities.** This constant struggle can sometimes lead to child abuse and neglect as parents and caregivers face overwhelming pressures. Additionally, children in impoverished situations are at a higher risk of exploitation, trafficking, and mental health issues.

# THE ISSUE



Photo credits: Getty

Southeast Asia comprises countries with varying levels of economic development, from rapidly industrialising countries like Malaysia and Thailand, to less developed countries such as Cambodia and Laos.

Economic inequality is stark, with many living below the poverty line. Rapid urbanisation has led to megacities, **bringing opportunities as well as challenges like urban poverty, inadequate housing, and limited essential services**. Migration, common within and across borders, often results in children being separated from their families or living in vulnerable conditions as undocumented migrants.

Traditional norms and cultural practices can perpetuate harmful behaviors and discrimination against children, especially girls. There is often a reluctance to report cases of abuse and exploitation due to stigma, fear of reprisal, and lack of awareness about children's rights. The region is also prone to natural disasters such as typhoons, earthquakes, and floods, which exacerbate vulnerabilities. Displacement caused by these disasters also often leads to increased risks of exploitation, trafficking, and disruption of education.

This Impact Fund enables the continued development of work and collaboration between five expert local child protection organisations across Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, focusing on areas where children are the most vulnerable.

**Statistics reveal the dire circumstances children face in the region:**

## CAMBODIA



50% of children have endured severe physical abuse, with **1 in 20 having experienced sexual abuse**

**40%**

40% of people live just above the poverty line, with **16% of children living below it**

## THAILAND

**10,000**

children were treated in hospitals due to abuse in 2022, with **most from sexual abuse**

**60,000**

children living with their parents in construction site camps **face challenges in accessing essential services** and often reside in slum-like conditions

## PHILIPPINES

**>17,600**

**child abuse cases** were recorded in 2023

## MALAYSIA

**>5,000**

cases of **child abuse and neglect handled** annually by the Social Welfare Department





# ABOUT THE FUND

## OVERVIEW

### NAME

Children-at-Risk Impact Fund

### COUNTRIES OF OPERATIONS

Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand

### LAUNCH DATE

July 2024

### MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION

**SGD20,000** | *Multi-year contributions welcome*

### FUND TARGET AND DURATION

**SGD8,000,000** over five years

**SGD1,600,000** per year

This Impact Fund aligns with and contributes to the following Sustainable Development Goals:



## TO GIVE:

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5% of the total funds raised will cover ACF's fundraising and administrative costs.

Individuals with 'Accredited Investor' status, their associated private wealth entities, or corporate entities that pass ACF's Know-Your-Donor process may give through ACF's various funds.



## The Children-at-Risk Impact Fund is dedicated to safeguarding children's well-being, rights, and safety.

The identified priorities are key elements in creating a comprehensive safety net for a child at risk



## KEY PRIORITIES

1

### **Child Protection support for vulnerable children and victims of abuse:**

This focus area is dedicated to creating a secure and nurturing environment for every child, helping them recover and thrive.

This includes immediate protection from threats, temporary shelter to ensure safety, as well as professional emotional support for victims of abandonment, extreme neglect, and severe physical or sexual abuse.

2

### **Case Management support for children and families:**

This area focuses on holistic case management to ensure that each child receives support tailored to his or her unique needs. These can include access to education, healthcare services, and financial assistance, as well as reviews for legal and specialised mental health support.

In this work, a dedicated case manager will journey with the child and family. As part of the case management and development of action plans for the child, families are also involved to ensure that the child gets the care they need to heal, build resilience, and thrive.

3

### **Outreach and Awareness-building on child rights and protection with key stakeholders:**

This focus area is crucial for educating and mobilising the community to identify at-risk children and recognise signs of abuse and neglect. Increased awareness allows more people to detect and report concerns, leading to timely interventions.

These awareness-building efforts also help individuals to learn about available support services and encourages families to seek help before problems escalate.



## LOOKING BACK

# In 2023, the Fund's partners achieved substantial impact and scalability:

1

### **1,500+ vulnerable children and families**

received essential child protection and case management services, including counseling, food and hygiene products, educational assistance, medical care, and temporary shelter.

2

### **6,500+ children and families**

received comprehensive education support, including access to formal and non-formal education, covering enrolment cost, school fees, and essential school supplies.

3

### **37,000+ medical and dental treatments**

were provided to vulnerable children and their families.

4

### **4,200+ children and families**

received essential provisions like food, hygiene kits, document assistance, and emergency home repairs.

5

### **14,500+ children, youth, and stakeholders, including teachers**

participated in training sessions on child rights and protection.





## WHO BENEFITS FROM THE FUND?

The Social impact partners in this Impact Fund have been selected based on their deep child protection and case management expertise, extensive experience, proven models, and proven impact.

They are recognised by national and international institutions as leaders in their respective fields of operation and are integral members of a regional network of NGOs dedicated to protecting and supporting children.

Over time, more partners could be added to the Children-at-Risk Impact Fund.





# BAAN DEK FOUNDATION

[www.baandekfoundation.org](http://www.baandekfoundation.org)

## OPERATING LOCATIONS

Bangkok and Chiang Mai, Thailand

## YEAR FOUNDED

2002

Baan Dek Foundation (BDF) is a Thai-registered foundation with a mission to improve the well-being of vulnerable children and their families living in urban slums and construction site camps across Thailand. To address this challenge, BDF supports children and their parents' immediate needs—such as access to healthcare, education, and child protection services, empowers communities through a peer-to-peer approach—such as through training for youth, adults, and women, and creates systemic change in Thailand's construction sector through its Building Social Impact initiative.

## RECENT RECOGNITION

In 2023, BDF won the Japan Social Development Fund Award, which recognises innovative ideas in the implementation of development projects for vulnerable and disadvantaged communities in developing countries.

In 2021, BDF won first place for the Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project for 'Access to Healthcare for Migrant Families in the Thai Construction Sector.'





# M'LOP TAPANG

[www.mloptapang.org/](http://www.mloptapang.org/)

**OPERATING LOCATIONS**  
Sihanoukville, Cambodia

**YEAR FOUNDED**  
2002

M'Lop Tapang (MT) is a Cambodian-registered nonprofit with a mission to provide a safe haven for the vulnerable children of Sihanoukville, offering care and support to any child at risk.

MT offers access to education, reintegration with families, life skills training, as well as creative and recreational activities, while ensuring protection from all forms of abuse. Initially, the focus was on stabilising the crises children face and ensuring safety. Attention then shifted to helping them access opportunities for a better future by targeting the root causes of school dropout, hazardous work, and precarious living conditions. In 2024, MT received a new 3-year MOU with Ministry of Social Affairs, as well as the Department of Education and in 2023, a 5-year MOU with the General Department of Prisons.

## RECENT RECOGNITION

In June 2024, MT was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation for 20 years of dedicated service and collaboration in the Sihanoukville region.

MT was also awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from the National Authority of Combating Drugs, describing MT as one of Cambodia's most effective NGOs working in drugs and alcohol support service provision.





# STAIRWAY FOUNDATION

[www.stairwayfoundation.org](http://www.stairwayfoundation.org)

## OPERATING LOCATIONS

Oriental Mindoro and Manila,  
Philippines

## YEAR FOUNDED

1990

Stairway Foundation is a Philippine-registered non-profit with a mission to protect and promote children's rights through a variety of intervention strategies developed over more than three decades. Innovation, creative excellence, continuous learning, and the use of technology are core elements in all of Stairway's interventions, including a community assistance programme encompassing educational and medical support, food security, livelihood (including sustainable farming techniques), financial literacy, and a wide range of other community support initiatives: a temporary family home programme offering rehabilitation for particularly disadvantaged children from the streets of Manila, a creative advocacy programme promoting awareness of children's rights, as well as network building and training for key child protection stakeholders across the country.

A comprehensive child rights e-learning platform plays an increasingly important role in child protection work locally, nationally, and internationally.

## RECENT RECOGNITION

Stairway Foundation is accredited at the highest level by the Department of Social Welfare and Development for implementing centre-based residential care programmes and services for disadvantaged male children and youth and for community-based programmes for children and youth.





# TONDO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

[www.tondocommunity.org/](http://www.tondocommunity.org/)

## OPERATING LOCATIONS

Tondo and Manila,  
Philippines

## YEAR FOUNDED

1990

Tondo Community Initiative (TCI) is a Philippine-registered non-profit with a mission to manage and stabilise the immediate and chronic crises faced by children, youth, and families living in Upper Smokey Mountain and the so-called 'Temporary Housing' area of Tondo, Manila.

TCI also works to ensure that children, youth, and families are aware of their rights, the opportunities to access and succeed in education and training, and how they can benefit from welfare and healthcare services available to them. TCI offers a range of support including direct child protection services for very complex child protection cases, enrolment in public schools and alternative learning systems, facilitation of the issuance of birth certificates— essential for enabling access to public services—a medical clinic, and positive activities for youth.





# YAYASAN CHOW KIT

[www.yck.org.my](http://www.yck.org.my)

## OPERATING LOCATIONS

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

## YEAR FOUNDED

2011

Yayasan Chow Kit (YCK) is a Malaysian-registered non-profit with a mission to protect the rights of all at-risk children and youth, provide them with safe havens, and expose them to as many positive and holistic opportunities as possible to enable them to reach their full potential.

To date, YCK has run two centres: a children's activity centre for children aged 7-12 providing a safe and nurturing environment for the children to learn and play; and a teenagers activity centre for teens aged 13-18 providing a safe space to engage meaningfully and productively with peers.

From August 2024, YCK will move into an improved and expanded multi-floor centre that will integrate both centres into one, improving efficiency and deepening impact. YCK also runs a small safehouse, providing full-time shelter for higher-risk children who are in need of temporary guardianship.

## RECENT RECOGNITION

In 2024, YCK was recognised as an 'Integrity Champion' by the Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia.







## HOW ARE OUR SOCIAL IMPACT PARTNERS CHOSEN?

Nonprofit partners in this Impact Fund have been selected based on their deep child protection and case management expertise, extensive experience, proven models, and proven impact. **They are recognised by national and international institutions as leaders** in their respective fields of operation and are **integral members** of a regional network of NGOs dedicated to protecting and supporting children.

These organisations are interconnected through **Firetree Philanthropy Foundation**. Over time, they have amalgamated into a formidable peer group, actively pursuing practical and strategic collaborations to amplify effectiveness and influence. Collaborations in this network include sharing best practices through learning exchanges, which are essential for on-going organisational and staff development, exchanging resources like policies and management tools, and conducting joint team training sessions and activities involving children and youth.

### Participating Donors can expect:

- 1 Annual closed-door sharing sessions with nonprofit partners to share updates and impact
- 2 An annual impact report, sharing progress on the Impact Fund's achievements
- 3 Priority invites to any learning journey trips to visit partners



## OUR PARTNER



Photo credits: Cartier Philanthropy/Ben Buckland

**Firetree Philanthropy Foundation's** team boasts over 50 years of collective experience in successfully managing programs centered on child protection and case management.

Their expertise extends to handling cases of child abuse and providing crucial training to police, local authorities, organisations, and families on child protection strategies and the prevention of child sexual abuse. This wealth of experience underscores their dedication to safeguarding children and empowering communities through comprehensive education and intervention initiatives.



Photo credits: Firetree Philanthropy





Photo credits: Cartier Philanthropy / Ben Buckland

## TO GIVE:

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