



What is Global Family?

Global Family Care Network is a non-profit organization that works to prevent and intercept child trafficking and systematic abuse and provide long-term and family-based care for children who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation and other forms of abuse. We were founded in 2007 and work in the United States, Canada, India, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, El Salvador, and the Maldives.

Our mission is to preserve the family and protect at-risk children with the assistance of local churches, community organizations, volunteer caregivers, and donors. Our vision is to help as many children as possible who are victims of poverty, exploitation, and abuse by modeling and sharing principled methods that represent the best possible outcome.

Collectively, our model projects are active in eight countries with 304 global team members. We have reported the following outcomes over the last twelve years:

- 177,676 participating in prevention clubs being educated about trafficking and child sexual abuse and empowered to protect themselves
- 1,516 daughters, victims of trafficking and exploitation, cared for in our shelters
- 2,093 children restored back home with their families



Approach

Global Family's ultimate goal is to develop innovative best practice models that protect children and preserve families. Our comprehensive approach and curricula will be contextualized for the major cultural regions of the world and our model programs will be accessible on every continent where child exploitation is prevalent. In addition, our key program staff will be sought after as experts in the field. These program approaches include:

PREVENTION

Prevention aims to protect children from being at-risk of trafficking and commercial exploitation, and targets both the supply and demand of trafficking. The best measures of protection and defense are locally driven efforts beginning in homes, villages, schools, and communities by those most affected. These efforts have taken the form of Daughter Project clubs that mobilize citizens and equip them to protect, intercept and restore girls at risk. Club activities include children advocating for their peers, girls' clubs that build self-work, women cooperating to keep girls in school, and community leaders upholding children's rights. Other clubs aim to intercept girls being trafficked or trapped in abuse and restore them back to their families or guide them to a restoration shelter.

INTERVENTION

Global Family directly engages in the interception of girls who are being trafficked and abused. Activities include alerting parents when girls stop attending school, children advocating for their peers, transit point monitoring, police rescue, and more. The goal is to restore her to her family or guide her to a restoration shelter where she can be cared for. Shelters serve as safe places for youth to access and provide therapeutic environments, crisis intervention, and case management. After meeting each youth's basic needs, shelter staff connects them to a continuum of services that address their physical, psychological, social, educational, environmental, and spiritual needs.

AFTERCARE

Family care, in lieu of institutional care, provides the best possible outcomes for children with respect to their psychological development and social and economic success. Global Family's team care approach provides the structure and professional therapies as well as the loving emotional bonds of a stable family that children require. This model involves collaboration with local organizations and networks which provide resources and volunteers in established accountability structures and introduces God-parent and mentor roles.

MULTIPLICATION

We train and resource other community-based and non-governmental organizations in prevention, intervention, and aftercare. This includes providing technical assistance for preventative clubs, awareness campaigns, shelters and short-term residential therapeutic programs, family care systems, and caregiver trainings. Our hope is that best practices for child protection and anti-human trafficking intervention will be continually implemented and evaluated, that interventions are effective, and that the evidence base on related interventions will increase.

Progress in 2019

215 CHILDREN RESCUED AND CARED FOR IN SHELTERS

5,843 EDUCATED ABOUT TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION

62 PREVENTION CLUBS

174 TEAM MEMBERS

STORIES FROM 2019



India

Senior girls at the shelter attended self-defence classes conducted by the Child Welfare Council.

Girls were enrolled in vocational training programs to develop their career skills.

Global family received good reports in all inspections conducted by the Juvenile Justice Board, District Child Protection Unit, health department and other social departments.



Maldives

Awareness campaigns were conducted to mobilize citizens around protecting vulnerable populations.

Trainings and youth empowerment sessions were held at women's and girl's clubs and with community-based organizations.

New curricula are being developed for the Maldivian context to educate youth about staying safe and preventing trafficking and exploitation.



Myanmar

28 children have been rescued and restored back with their families, including 16 children from the children's prison.

The government has now allowed us to hold awareness campaigns in schools in Chin and Shan states.

More than 25 non-profit organizations have been trained and are using our curriculum for girl's empowerment and trafficking prevention.

Our team assisted with the identification and arrest of 11 traffickers.

On February 9th, 2019, Global Family Coordinators visited Pachakalu village in Shan State, Myanmar, to conduct an awareness campaign. More than 50 women attended. Coordinators told participants about common tactics that traffickers use to coerce victims, including, most prominently in this area, promising children better jobs in Thailand. During the campaign, a woman stood up in the crowd and said that two days prior, three girls and three boys from that village, ages 14-17 years old, had been recruited by two women to work in Thailand. The Global Family Coordinators suggested that she visit the families of the children who were taken, and she later reported back that the parents were paid 100,000 MMK (70.70 USD) per child. Recognizing this as trafficking, Global Family Coordinators informed the Social Minister of Shan State, and after two weeks, the two traffickers were arrested, and the six children were brought home.

Nepal

We have been recognized by the National Children at Risk Center for our significant partnership with the Government of Nepal in the reunification of children.

149 girls graduated from girl's clubs for the prevention of trafficking and exploitation.

New prevention programs have been launched in Jhapa, a marginalized and indigenous area of Eastern Nepal.



El Salvador

70 girls attended our second annual girl's club camp, with 20 girls volunteering!

We are conducting ongoing leadership trainings and actively partnering with other organizations working in El Salvador.



We have been implementing prevention clubs and working with local schools to improve the identification of child abuse and neglect.

72 children attended our first ever girl's and boy's club camp, which taught attendees about children's rights, building strong relationships, and reducing the prevalence of child sexual abuse.



United Kingdom

This year, we launched St. James Research Centre (SJRC), an international hub for research and training on human trafficking prevention, rehabilitation, orphan care, and community-based development!



United States

The Daughter Project Girls Home (DPGH) has officially been licensed by the State of California and cared for over 55 girls who are victims of sexual exploitation this year.

Our Executive Director, Jennifer Jensen, is serving on the White House Public Private Partnership Advisory Council to End Human Trafficking and is the co-chair of the Prevention Sub-Committee.



OUR PROGRAMS

India

SANGAM VIHAR SHELTER

The Sangam Vihar shelter is a licensed 25 bed shelter for young girls who have been trafficked, raped, and systematically abused. It is estimated that 20 to 65 million people are affected by commercial sexual exploitation in India today, and 80% of those are women. When rescued by the police, girls need a safe place to stay whilst their legal cases are determined. Victims of trafficking need specialized care and support by trained caregivers. The goal of the shelter is to provide a place of refuge and restoration so that young girls can be returned back home with their families where they belong. Our team takes the girls in, cares for and counsels them, and advocates on their behalf in court. To date, this shelter has cared for over 600 young girls with a 95% success rate of family restoration. The governing body in Delhi declared our shelter as the model so that any group wanting to open a similar effort must be trained and certified by our team.

FAMILY CARE

Although Global Family attempts to return victims back to their families, sometimes reunification is not possible if the families are unable to care for their daughter or they were originally responsible for the exploitation. The institutionalization of children, especially children whose families are able to care for them, is harmful to their long-term development. Studies show that even when parents are divorced or struggle in economically lacking situations, children have better long-term outcomes when raised by their own parent(s). A child should only be separated from family support in extreme circumstances.

Our family group home exists to care for young girls, victims of trafficking and abuse, who are unable to return back home with their families. This family consists of 8 girls and a caregiver team. The girls that make up this family have all been cared for through our Delhi shelter, girls that were rescued by the police who had been victims of trafficking and abuse. Our Global Family team were able to care for and advocate upon their behalf in the court. Since these daughters do not have family or extended family to return to, the court asked us to provide long-term family care. And we did! We established this family home so that these girls could return to life as daughters, not victims. They go to school, play, and experience all of the things that every child deserves.

We also recruit and train volunteer caregivers to provide a family for children from the Sangam Vihar shelter who are unable to return home. We currently have five families into which children have been placed in India. Our team regularly follows up with children and caregivers to provide resources and support.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

We also established an education program in a railroad slum community that has now grown to include a majority of the children from the slum. Many children in this railroad slum community were previously not attending school. Instead, they were going to work daily to collect rags and other items to earn money for their family. Crime and family disintegration characterize this slum. Once children graduate from our program, they are able to enroll in the formal government school. This is a tremendous success in a community where parents were initially very hesitant to send children to school as they needed them to earn daily wages.

Nepal

COMMUNITY-BASED CLUBS

This is where the Daughter Project was 'born'. Thousands of young Nepali girls are trafficked across the border into India and beyond each year, many of these girls spend the remainder of their lives in brothel cities. A grassroots 'club' approach to bring awareness and prevention to this issue was launched in affected villages all across the country. An example of this approach is a student girls' club in Nuwakot that decided to take matters into their own hands at their school. A male teacher would bring female students to the front of the class and put his hand in the breast pocket of their uniform to shame them. The girls petitioned the school leadership to adopt new uniforms that did not include breast pockets, and they won! This empowered the girls to make other positive changes as well and work together to encourage one another.

SHELTER

In Nepal, we also have a licensed shelter (10 beds) for children who have been rescued from traffickers and systematic abuse. Children are identified by our team, law enforcement, and other NGOs. Our team transports these children to our transit shelter and provides them with immediate health and legal care, assessing their needs and referring them to necessary services. While staying at the transit shelter, they remain under the care of qualified and passionate staff. Children stay at the shelter between 1 and 12 months depending on his/her trauma and family circumstances. Global Family staff work to identify and locate their families and determine whether it is safe for the children to return to their families. If not, they are placed in long-term family care. While staying at the shelter or when in family care, girls have 'God-parents' through local community-based organizations.

FAMILY CARE

Many girls in Nepal who have been rescued from difficult circumstances need long-term family care. The family care model is proven to be more effective than institutional care because children have the opportunity to grow up in a family environment with loving parents and siblings. Girls who are restored to their families or placed in our family home in Kathmandu after being rescued need long-term support for education, which helps prepare them for their futures and prevent re-victimization. This family home provides shelter for eight girls who have been rescued from trafficking and exploitation. The girls, between the ages of 8 and 14, are now part of a family with caregivers and god-parents from the local community and church partner. Each girl receives individual and familial love and care, unlike institutionalized children's homes. Girls' individual educational, nutritional, and health and wellness needs are met.

Myanmar

AWARENESS AND COMMUNITY-BASED CLUBS

Myanmar has recently been downgraded by the US State Department with respect to its efforts to combat human trafficking (Trafficking in Persons Report 2018). We work in the capital city of Yangon as well as the states of Chin, Shan and Kachin as these areas have significant human trafficking activity. Many Burmese children are trafficked domestically for labor as well as into neighboring countries (including China, Thailand, and India) for child marriage, sexual enslavement, etc.

Global Family's nine coordinators in Myanmar work to form clubs and hold awareness campaigns to educate families about the risks of letting their children go away from home. Clubs aim to reduce the prevalence of human trafficking and other forms of exploitation, including abuse and child marriage. They have also intercepted several trafficking rings and been able to restore children back home with their families. The girls' club curriculum is used by community-based volunteers who implement and run prevention clubs. After having started several clubs around Myanmar, we have seen demand for the curriculum to be used in parts of Chin and Kachin states. We are currently translating the curriculum into Chin and Kachin Burmese.

RESCUE

Current efforts in the capital city include restoring children who live in large 'child prisons'. Many children who are abandoned or who leave their homes and villages find themselves on the streets of Yangon, Myanmar's capital city. They are often taken by the police to what are called 'child prisons', many of these children stay for months or longer due to the fact that they cannot explain where they came from and their families do not know where they are. Our coordinators in Yangon will work with the children and authorities in the prison to restore them back home with their families. For those children who do not have families to return to, we will find alternative long-term care.

United States

SHELTER

We have worked in the United States since 2016, starting girls' empowerment clubs and a Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program for minor victims (ages 12-17) of commercial sexual exploitation (CSEC) in Bakersfield, CA. We have loved getting back to our roots here in California, partnering with our home church(es) and local organizations.

PREVENTION

Our most recent initiative, PRESEHT, aims to educate child care professionals and youth about how to identify and intervene in human trafficking. Trainings are provided for professionals and agencies in foster care, education, business, law enforcement, healthcare, transportation, hospitality, and community-based organizations both in-person and online.

The training for professionals is organized in three parts and consists of 1) CSEC basics (facts and figures, common myths about CSEC, impact on communities and children), 2) identification and intervention (role of professionals, signs of trafficking, questions to ask, language of the commercial sex industry, developing effective protocols, assessment and screening, and transitional needs), and 3) prevention (practical approaches, risk factors, categories of at-risk children, and helping children identify trafficking).

Trainings for youth is organized by 1) CSEC basics, 2) awareness, 3) protection, and 4) classroom activities. CSEC basics includes definitions, types of abuse, understanding human rights and the rights of children, and facts and figures about human trafficking and CSEC. Awareness includes how to identify trafficking, questions to ask, when someone might be trying to exploit you and spotting the signs of when someone else might be trafficked or exploited, and strategies for intervention. Protection focuses on teaching youth about avoiding situations in which they could be exploited.

El Salvador

COMMUNITY-BASED CLUBS

The Daughter Project has been working in El Salvador for the last two years starting girls' empowerment clubs through rural community organizations. There are currently five community-based clubs in El Salvador. This is the first country in Latin America in which we have partnered, and we have seen extraordinary growth!

Thailand

COMMUNITY-BASED CLUBS

Thailand is a source, transit, and destination country for human trafficking, including sex trafficking and forced/child marriage. Our projects in Thailand are located in Chiang Rai which borders Myanmar, from which much trafficking occurs. The deep-rooted Thai prostitution industry provides an outlet to which victims are transported and enslaved. Many people are also trafficked into the commercial fishing industry. Migration to and from Thailand is largely identified as a medium through which trafficking takes place.

We recently launched in Thailand in the northern area of Chiang Rai. Our focus is to work with tribal groups in this region (the golden triangle) to raise awareness and find local solutions to the issues of child exploitation and trafficking. Our girls' inner beauty curriculum has been translated into Thai (also in French, Spanish, Nepali and English) that builds self-worth and communities of support for at-risk girls. There are currently three clubs in Thailand. One is a mixed youth club in Huai Pla Kung village, which is located near central Chiang Rai. There are two girls' clubs, one in Huaisan village, and one located outside of central Chiang Rai hosted by the Watanasere Foundation. Clubs in Chiang Rai are working in a school to raise awareness about implementing a child protection policy, the impact of child abuse, positive discipline, and preventing violence against children. The club has met with school leaders and board members and aims to improve the knowledge and awareness about child abuse amongst school and community leaders.

Maldives

AWARENESS

The Maldives is a common destination country for trafficked individuals from India and Bangladesh. Both Maldivian citizens and foreigners (including from Sri Lanka, Thailand, India, China, the Philippines, and Eastern Europe) are subject to forced prostitution. It is also a common practice for younger Maldivian girls to be trafficked to Male from other islands for domestic servitude. Awareness sessions seek to increase knowledge amongst local people about the issue of trafficking and related issues, including forced labor and abuse. They consist of educating communities about the issue and how to identify it.

COMMUNITY-BASED CLUBS

We have launched projects in the Maldives that currently consist of community-based clubs and awareness sessions. Clubs are run by individuals and youth in their own communities and may use a girls' empowerment curriculum that specifically targets the risk factors for trafficking and abuse amongst girls. They are implemented by volunteers in islands where traffickers source girls and women to work in forced prostitution. The curriculum is currently being contextualized for the Maldives and will be used in schools as well as clubs.

United Kingdom

TRAINING

In 2019, Global Family founded St. James Research Center (SJRC) in Scotland. SJRC aims to equip leaders to conduct research and implement programs in community-based development, prevention of modern slavery, rehabilitation and psycho-therapeutic programs for victims of human trafficking, and orphan care. Summer and fall courses are provided in separate modules for students and professionals who want to integrate community development, human trafficking, and orphan care into their academic and/or professional careers. New research includes developing a community-level risk assessment tool for exploitation and reviewing the characteristics and stakeholders of human trafficking in the United Kingdom.

