



Core Methodologies & Strategies

Core methodologies and strategies help us build and shape our best practice approaches to family care, human trafficking prevention and intervention, rehabilitation of victims of commercial sexual exploitation, and community strengthening.



1. “How Matters” Aftercare System

Underage at-risk children with family/parents

Most organizations that intercept or are given children who are associated with the trafficking issue (impoverished and displaced, runaways, intercepted at the border, brought by police, rescued from the brothel, children of prostitutes, etc.) are very eager to house them in ‘homes of hope’, ‘children’s homes’, orphanages, or other visible institutions. Although an overwhelming number of studies have demonstrated that children who are raised by their parents fare better (even when parents are poor, have ‘immoral occupations’, live in inadequate communities, or are single) than in institutions, many organizations prefer to house the children themselves instead of restore them to their original families. We believe that this practice mirrors rather than challenges the spirit that drives traffickers themselves as the children continue to be exploited for financial gain even after their ‘rescue.’ Our approach is restoration. We want to quickly and gently return the children to their own families and believe that no other reason to remove or keep children from their families is acceptable. We only take children when the legal system has deemed their families unfit because of abuse or neglect.

Underage at-risk children without family/parents

Most organizations continue to rely on institutional approaches to care for children who do not have families, despite studies indicating that the next best option for children without families is to be placed in a foster care family moving toward adoption. We are committed to working through the difficult challenges of governments and social practices to develop family care systems modeled after international foster care adoption practices.

Of age victims of trafficking

Most organizations are eager to help children escape exploitation, the brothels, or living on the street. However, they often keep these children for extended periods of time and do not seem eager to move children to independence. Global Family wants to free victims not just from the abuse of their former lives as slaves or prostitutes but also from an identity that prevents them from being fully reintegrated into society. Our aftercare program focuses on independence, freedom, job training, counseling, and discipleship in atmospheres of community. Once they are old enough, they are supported with the necessary tools to be released into employment, marriage, and adult life as they choose. We encourage our partners to help more children and provide them with better outcomes by quickly restoring them to their families or placing them in new families. Our goal is to prepare children for life apart from their past abuse. We don’t rescue them to keep them, but to free them.

2. Asset Based Community Solutions

Global Family supports and strengthens existing community assets with the idea that the best opportunities originate from local, rather than outside, advantages. We aim to support individuals and associations that already exist in at-risk regions to create and implement community based solutions. The key is first to empower individuals with the skills and social support they need to envision an improved future, then to identify key assets and mobilize resources. Asset based community solutions come directly from the associations that exist on a local scale, driven by local people, and supported by local talent and resources. Global Family’s role is to assist identifying assets, empowering individuals, strengthening integral social relationships in local associations, and accommodating the mobilization of key resources. We believe that long-lasting solutions come from the people who engage daily with local forms of social capital and who endure the issues at hand.

3. “Vortex” Methodology

The most effective social change is brought about when multiple community stakeholders are included in discussion and action of integrated solutions. Global Family has identified four key ‘fields’ that are both necessary for our projects, but also have great influence over the ability of our projects to succeed and the direction that they will go. These fields are community, faith group, development agency, and donor. The expectations, biases, and needs of each field vary, but the outcomes that yield the best results are those that are produced by the strengths, collaborative efforts, and contributions of each.

In ‘vortex’ methodology, community, faith group, development agency (Global Family), and donor all participate in identifying the need, crafting a message that suits this need, coaching change agents within the target community, and evaluating the outcome. Throughout this process there is a transformation of mindset, values, attitudes, and behaviors within each field. The message itself is informed by each field, transformed in dialogue, produced into culture change tools, delivered back to the field through change agents, and evaluated according to the desired outcomes.

This model of integrated collaboration and commitment of resources drives many of Global Family’s endeavors. For instance, we believe that dialogue amongst fields is integral to the transformation of the current state of child aftercare in Nepal. North American donors and Nepali churches have attempted a program of compassion to help children in need, but have excluded input from local communities and NGO best practice specialists. The result has been a large mushrooming of children’s homes across the country that are both unsuited to the current needs of many of these children, as well as their families and communities. At a recent government sponsored conference attempting to solve this problem, community members and NGO’s discussed the devastating effects that the current system is having upon Nepalese society, stemming mostly from the fact that 80-90% of these ‘orphaned’ children have families that are willing and able to care for them. They describe the churches’ actions as motivated by foreign donations to run these ‘orphanages’ and the desire of Nepali parents to place their children in these homes in the hopes of giving them a better education. The result is that local communities are frustrated at the church, whose workers have, in the name of compassion, only separated children from their families. Ironically, the conference had little representation from the church and none from the donor field. We believe that improved dialogue and collaboration amongst these key players is integral if sustainable and effective solutions to protect children are going to be created and implemented.

While we are working towards improving collective actions amongst these fields in Nepali childcare as a whole, many of Global Family’s projects are formed through integrated participation amongst fields. In 2010, a group of North American college students, working with local Nepali church representatives, NGO personnel, and Nepali women and girls, developed a girls’ empowerment curriculum called *Bhitri Sundarta*. We have seen huge demand for this material, with possibilities of it being used by public schools, local churches, and other community organizations. The goal of the curriculum is to provide knowledge and mentorship to girls who are at-risk of being trafficked and abused in their communities, and to enable them to protect themselves. The curriculum is a culture change tool that reorients the value of a Nepali girl. Clubs that are formed around it are facilitated and driven by volunteers in local communities, making the reproduction and maintenance of the clubs sustainable. This project demonstrates the potential of a dedicated team to develop messages that can be delivered back to the donor, NGO, faith group, and community fields towards protecting children.

4. Volunteer Driven

We are volunteer driven and volunteer dependent. All of our community workers are volunteers, and so are our caregivers who partner with us to take in abused, exploited, and at-risk children. Because caregivers are volunteers, and are not paid for their work, they have an equal investment in the lives of the children they care for. This enables us to work towards the best practices of aftercare and make sure that families are created out of a common goal to protect children.

5. Direct to the Need Sponsorships

The *Direct to the Need* sponsorship model works to engage donors while supporting overseas family strengthening efforts, undertaken by local volunteer clubs and organizations in at-risk communities preventing the breakdown of families. The idea is that \$12.00 a month supports the efforts of a club and the various activities that they hold in their communities. It's a \$0.40 a day sponsorship that is accessible to nearly all income levels. 90% of all donated funds are sent directly to the local volunteer family caregivers, Daughter Project club members, and community organizers in communities with high poverty rates. These funds are given with no conditions or strings attached, but rather to trusted and trained partners and caregivers running local initiatives that protect children and preserve families. The remaining 10% is given to Global Family paid field coordinators.

6. Direct to the Donor Reporting

Donors receive reports directly from our overseas partners, projects, and volunteers, or straight from outreach workers if they sponsor a club. We value financial and operational transparency in order to improve exposure to our projects.

7. "Agenda One" Messaging

Agenda One is a pilot project that seeks to bolster the local efforts to protect children. Value and culture change campaigns work through messaging conduits, including events, social media, television, and print media.

8. Streamlined Operations

Global Family avoids redundancy in staff using web based sponsorship reporting and dependence upon local volunteers. This way, our program implementation and evaluation procedures avoid excess, slow, or bureaucratic organization.

9. Open Source Multiplication

Global Family desires to share the various approaches that are developed through its network as well as promote and train other childcare organizations to follow the *how matters* aftercare approach. We recruit, train, and fund partner programs that we have identified as embodying the best practices of childcare.