ANNUAL REPORT FY 2026

HELP OTHERS WHENEVER YOU CAN

children's future



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

This year was one of significant achievement, growth, and resilience for Children's Future International (CFI). We are grateful to our supporters whose commitment made it possible to continue creating opportunities for vulnerable children, youth, and families in Battambang.

A major milestone was the completion of the new Children's Future Center. After more than a decade of legal, financial, and construction challenges, CFI finally has a permanent home designed for children to learn, grow, play, and feel safe. The new center is a dream come true, providing space for community activities and family support, strengthening the foundation for CFI's work for years to come. We've already begun to transform the space into a home, with staff and students helping make the space their own through landscaping and student-designed classroom murals.

The expanded facilities enabled our Learning Center to grow from 150 to 200 students this year, providing 50 additional vulnerable children with educational support. Our volunteers this year have developed music and art curriculum for our teachers to give students new opportunities for creativity, confidence, and self-expression.



An especially meaningful project was the launch or our new swimming and drowning prevention program, motivated by the tragic loss of two young boys in our community in the past few years. The project taught children essential water safety skills while raising awareness in the wider community through participatory theater.

The escalation of conflict along the Thailand-Cambodia border brought additional uncertainty, including bombing near Battambang and the displacement of thousands of families. Our team responded carefully to emerging needs while continuing to support our community.

In light of the conflict and related economic pressures, our Social Work team's work supporting vulnerable families was even more vital. Interventions through cash assistance, improved housing, counseling, referrals, emergency support, and livelihood assistance have helped families meet urgent needs while building greater stability and resilience.

We also faced challenges, including the loss of funding for our successful internship program. Thankfully, temporary and prospective longer-term support has allowed us to continue providing young people with valuable professional skills and employment pathways.

Looking back, this year demonstrated what is possible through perseverance, partnership, and community support. From a new permanent home and expanded education programs to family assistance and youth opportunities, CFI continues to invest in a safer, healthier, and brighter future for the children and families we serve. Thank you as always for being a key part of that story.

With gratitude,

Susie Johnston

SUSIE JOHNSTON
Board President

OUR STORY

Children's Future International (CFI) was founded in 2009 by Jenny Ciucci and Andrew Wolff to be a community based organization to protect children from all forms of abuse, promote the rights and uphold the dignity of the most at-risk children in rural Cambodia.

CFI works in communities with untreated trauma from the Khmer Rouge genocide, poverty, malnutrition, exploitation, trafficking and neglect. Without support, children who are affected face poor educational outcomes and additional risks, including child and family separation, unsafe migration, preventable diseases, family violence and child labor.

To provide basic needs and safety, the Learning Center opened in 2010 for children aged 0-25 in Ek Phnom District. The families we work with live in extreme poverty, without regular income and often without enough to support their family. According to UNICEF, 19% of Cambodian children aged 5-14 engage in child labor, and 36% of children enrolled in primary school drop out before completing grade 5. The pressure to contribute to the family financially is the main driver for premature school drop-out which, coupled with high levels of migration, leaves children vulnerable to trafficking and abuse. Even with school completion, over 80% of recent graduates lack the skills required by employers.

CFI's team of 45 staff and interns work to address these challenges within the community by promoting the rights and dignity of the most vulnerable children through support services to over 1,000 vulnerable children, youth and their families.

CFI's intake/exit system ensures that all children are safe and supported, while prioritizing the most vulnerable and reducing service dependency of families. With strong connections in communities and with local authorities, as well as an understanding of community needs, we facilitate community-led and sustainable solutions focused on empowering this generation and the ones that will follow.

CFI is an independent, non-political, non-religious entity registered as a 501c3 charity in the United States with an MoU with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Cambodia.



VISION

A future where every child in Cambodia is safe, healthy, educated, thriving, and happy.

MISSION

To improve the lives of vulnerable, marginalized and at-risk children in Battambang province by providing access to quality education; promoting child rights; ensuring physical safety, health and wellness; inspiring children and young adults to act as positive role models within their communities; fostering self-reliance among families and communities; and sharing joy together.



OUR VALUES

- LOVE EVERY CHILD EQUALLY
- TREAT EVERY CHILD WITH RESPECT AND COMPASSION
- TAKE INITIATIVE AND BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR YOUR ACTIONS
- WORK HARD AND BE A DEPENDABLE PART OF CFI
- COMMUNICATE OPENLY
- BE HONEST AND HAVE FUN
- LEARN AND GROW TOGETHER
- HELP OTHERS WHENEVER YOU CAN

SERVICE PATHWAYS

FOUR MAIN AREAS TO BEST SERVE CHILDREN AT RISK

Children enter CFI's programming after an assessment using the internationally recognized Child Status Index, which examines the child's nutrition, shelter, protection, health, psychosocial and educational status.

After the initial assessment, CFI holds an intake panel, where the team examines the risks the child faces and decides if CFI can provide services, which services those might be, if the case can be referred to a partner, or if the case is not at a high-enough risk to be accepted.

Every six months, case workers review the child's status to see if any internal referrals are needed or if the family is able to exit from CFI services.

Reducing service dependency is one of the pillars of CFI's work, so when a family improves their situation and is able to provide for themselves, they gradually stop receiving services. Therefore, children receiving CFI's services are the most vulnerable and most in need.

SOCIAL WORK

Case management, counseling, basic need support, cash, health, livelihood support, housing, and referrals.

LEARNING CENTER

Supplementary Math, Khmer, English, Computer, Science, Engineering, Art, Music, and Physical Education classes and extra curricular activities



EDUCATION ADVOCACY

School materials, counseling, bicycles, vocational training and university scholarships.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Soft skill development, career development, Day for Girls, swimming, and leadership skills.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This year, we were excited to finally move into our new home! The move happened in September 2025, however we were temporarily using some classrooms as offices until the office construction finished in June 2026.

Although we have many happy memories in the old center, the new center has overnight brought a feeling of connectedness, peace, and space to run our current activities and the activities we hope to run in the future.

The team has come together with the children to work on the murals decorating the walls and creating the garden areas for everyone to enjoy. We look forward to watching the trees grow tall and the flowers bloom.







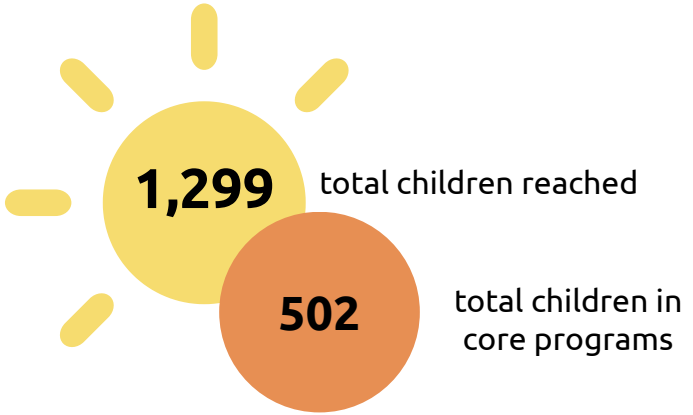
KEY SUCCESSES

- Finishing all construction and grand opening ceremony on July 10th, 2026.
- Staff development opportunities: first aid refresher training from the Cambodian Red Cross; Basic and Advanced English course for all staff; Psychological first aid, trauma and self-care; HR training; Digital Literacy, and CFI policy refresher trainings.
- Continued to implement staff well-being activities through weekly team building activities, staff dinner, local staff retreat, and department team building.
- Sustaining the internship program, despite funding challenges, by reducing the number of interns in 2026 and seeking funding for long-term sustainability.



ORGANIZATIONAL METRICS

- 45 full-time staff (as of June 2026)
- 55% female staff
- 98% Khmer staff
- 125 total intake of cases this year
- 121 total cases exited this year
- 47 consumer group participants
- 27 youth participation attendees
- 18 interns, 100% of whom successfully transitioned to the workforce upon program completion.



PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR

- Continue to review policies and standard operating procedures.
- Open a “Futures Office” where we can provide employment skill training, referrals to vocational training, university support, job placement, and small business start-up support.

CONFLICT RESPONSE

In response to the conflict with Thailand in late 2025, we did our best to ensure safety of our students and staff while supporting internally displaced people and returned migrants within our target area. Specifically, we responded by:

- Teaching our students about preparing a go-bag and surviving aerial attacks
- Providing multiple trainings for our staff and partner NGO staff on how to work with displaced people safely (mental health, physical health, and safeguarding/child protection)
- Supporting the government "child friendly area" in the camp closest to us and contributed to their donation efforts
- Providing 104 displaced families with one-time cash support
- Continuing to provide one family that has been unable to return home with monthly cash support and case management
- Providing 25 affected children and youth with education packages (bicycle, school supplies, uniforms, etc.)







SOCIAL WORK

Following the loss of USAID funding in early 2025, CFI focused on supporting families through the transition while prioritizing the most vulnerable. With support from the Martin James Foundation, during FY2025-2026 we provided cash assistance to 54 cases and 30 family members, reducing the number of families receiving ongoing support to 16 by the end of the project. You can read more about the project here: https://mjfglobal.org/beyond-the-cash-what-flexible.../

Cash assistance proved highly effective and flexible. Families used the support for education (88%), medical expenses (63%), food (63%), household items (44%), and hygiene (38%). Some families, however, continue to face food insecurity, unemployment, or age-related barriers to earning an income. As funding for the cash assistance project ends, CFI will reduce the amount provided per family to extend limited support while working to connect families with employment and small-business opportunities through a new employment program next year.

CFI also continued providing food, livelihood, and housing support alongside social work counseling and case management. With reduced funding, our focus has shifted from reintegration of children from institutional care to preventing family separation and strengthening families to care for their children safely at home.











KEY SUCCESSES

- Capacity building for staff and sharing with network partners.
- Continuing cash support program, housing project, and long term support strategies.
- Training families, children, and staff on child protection, safeguarding, and reporting processes.

SOCIAL WORK METRICS

- **211** children supported with social work
  - **96** of which were the most severe cases
  - **115** of which were moderately severe cases
- **26** families received food support
- **20** families received housing/latrine support
- **10** families received livelihood support
- **142** children treated with first aid at CFI
- **29** children supported to receive healthcare at a center.

PLAN FOR NEXT YEAR

- Continue and improve existing programs to support vulnerable families including food, cash, housing, livelihood, counseling, and trainings.
- Possibly restructuring the team to better integrate education and social work outcomes.
- Training and support for social workers, including their mental health and well-being, and improved use of standard operating procedures.

A case study from

SOCIAL WORK

Jiva is an infant living with his parents and 3-year-old sister in Prey Chas commune, one of Ek Phnom's floating villages. CFI began working with the family when poverty, an unsafe home, unstable income, domestic violence, and the father's drug use put the children at risk of separation. Their severely damaged house flooded whenever it rained, forcing the family to sleep with relatives, while the parents struggled to earn enough through small-scale fishing. The house was so old and severely damaged, with rotten planks and broken walls, that it was at risk of collapsing, putting the children at risk of drowning.

When Jiva's grandparents asked authorities to place the children in residential care, the commune referred the family to CFI. Our social work team conducted a family assessment, developed a safety plan with the family and local authorities, and began case management to address the underlying challenges.

CFI provided emergency food, infant formula, hygiene and household supplies, and nine months of cash assistance. The family also received guidance on positive parenting, child protection, health and hygiene, safe migration, and financial management. We were also able to support them with the construction of a safe new home.

Today, the family is living safely and happily together. The father has stopped using drugs for 8 months and is committed to supporting his family through fishing. Domestic violence has ceased, the mother is able to care for her children consistently, and the children are growing up in a safe and stable environment.

They said, **"we now have our own safe house and don't need to worry anymore about our children's safety like before!"**

For CFI's caseworker, seeing the family together, safe, and thriving is a powerful reminder of the impact that family-centered support can have.





LEARNING CENTER

Our learning center team expanded by a third last year with the move to the new center. Though only about two kilometers from the old center, our team assessed around 50 new students who would benefit from education support. There were many more students that are still interested in coming to the learning center, but we have had to only take the most vulnerable students. We're very excited at the possibilities that the new center holds as far as expanding the educational offerings to the students.

Our two volunteers this year continued to support the teachers to expand the curriculum further. As such, we have started a new schedule, holding Math, Khmer, Computers, and English Monday through Wednesday, then offering Science, Engineering, Physical Education, and Arts and Crafts on Thursday, finally adding music and art to our Fun Friday classes. The students have loved the new schedule, and we look forward to continuing to diversify the educational opportunities for students next year.







KEY SUCCESSES

- Increased enrollment and opportunities for the students.
- Training from the old Learning Center manager, Jon Blumenfield, to reinforce competency-based learning and share the technique with new teachers.

LEARNING CENTER METRICS

- **248** children attended the Learning Center
  - **97** students studied Khmer/Math
  - **150** students studied English
  - **64** students studied Computers
- **52** students receivied lunch/dinner, providing **14,820** meals
- **142** students received health and hygiene education sessions

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR

- Plan to create the kindergarten program at CFI
- Continue to enrich the curriculum for the students
- Work to create better disability inclusion in the learning center



Engineering class



Yoga



Student Reward Ceremony



Music class







Khmer New Year celebration



Playing soccer in free time



Physical Education



Art Class

A case study from the

LEARNING CENTER

Meet Givorn (pseudonym). He is eight years old and has already faced many big challenges in his short life. Tragically, his mother passed away when he was just a baby, and he has no connection with his father, so he was raised by his grandparents. His grandfather is a fisherman who works very hard, but often struggles just to put food on the table. With so many problems at home, Givorn didn't want to go to school. He felt lost and alone.

When Givorn first came to the CFI Learning Center, he was very unhappy. He didn't know how to tell people he was sad or scared, so he showed his feelings by being angry. He would shout during class and pick fights with the other children. It was hard for him to be calm because he didn’t know how to deal with his emotions. He felt like school was just another place where he didn't belong.

Often, people react by being strict with a child like Givorn, but our teachers are trained to support students who come from challenging home environments. They didn't give up on him. Instead of getting angry back, they showed him kindness and patience. They made the classroom a friendly place where Givorn felt safe and seen. They used fun games and toys to help him learn through play. For the first time, school didn't feel like a scary place; it felt like a home.

Today, Givorn is a completely different child. He comes to class every single day with a big, bright smile. The fighting has stopped, and he now loves playing and laughing with his friends. He is even excited to learn more! Recently, he walked up to the learning center manager and asked if he could sign up for other classes.

Givorn said, **“I like learning here because my teacher is kind to me and there are many toys to play with.”**

His story shows us something very important: when a child feels loved and safe, they can safely learn, grow, and succeed.



EDUCATION ADVOCACY

Throughout the year, CFI's Education Advocacy team helped vulnerable students stay engaged in school through individualized support, including counseling, school supplies, uniforms, bicycles, and extra-class assistance. Workshops on Future Goals, Days for Girls, Road Safety, and the Next Generation Initiative strengthened students' life skills, health knowledge, career readiness, and motivation to complete high school.

For 10 students pursuing alternative pathways, CFI provided vocational training referrals, connecting them with government and private training institutions and apprenticeship opportunities. The team introduced students to vocational training options and career pathways in Siem Reap and Battambang through study tours.

Our university preparation program continued to guide students through national examinations, university applications, scholarship opportunities, and career planning. Students visited local universities and participated in an adapted adventure activity that developed leadership, teamwork, communication, and problem-solving skills. The program continues to be a pipeline linking students to university, with 20 university scholarships awarded this year.

We are also proud to celebrate two CFI graduates who persevered to complete their university degrees, inspiring younger students to pursue their own educational goals.







KEY SUCCESSES

- Road Safety workshops to 82 students and 22 caretakers.
- 20 students in Grade 9 workshops and 11 students in Grade 12 workshops, supporting exam preparation and secondary/high school transition.
- 20 parent/teacher meeting participants to prioritize education and collaboration between families and the public schools.
- 52 students received extra class support at the public schools.
- 38 participants in university prep workshops
- 35 participants in study tour to Siem Reap and Battambang





EDUCATION ADVOCACY METRICS

- **339** students supported to stay in public school
  - **209** in primary school
  - **85** in secondary school
  - **45** in high school
- **188** workshop participants
  - **105** participants in Future Goals workshops
  - **28** participants in Day for Girls workshops
  - **55** youth participating in Next Generation (Life and Employment skills)
- **10** youth supported with vocational training
- **22** youth received university scholarships
- **2** students graduated from university



Vocational training tour - Battambang



Vocational training tour - Siem Reap



Road Safety Workshop



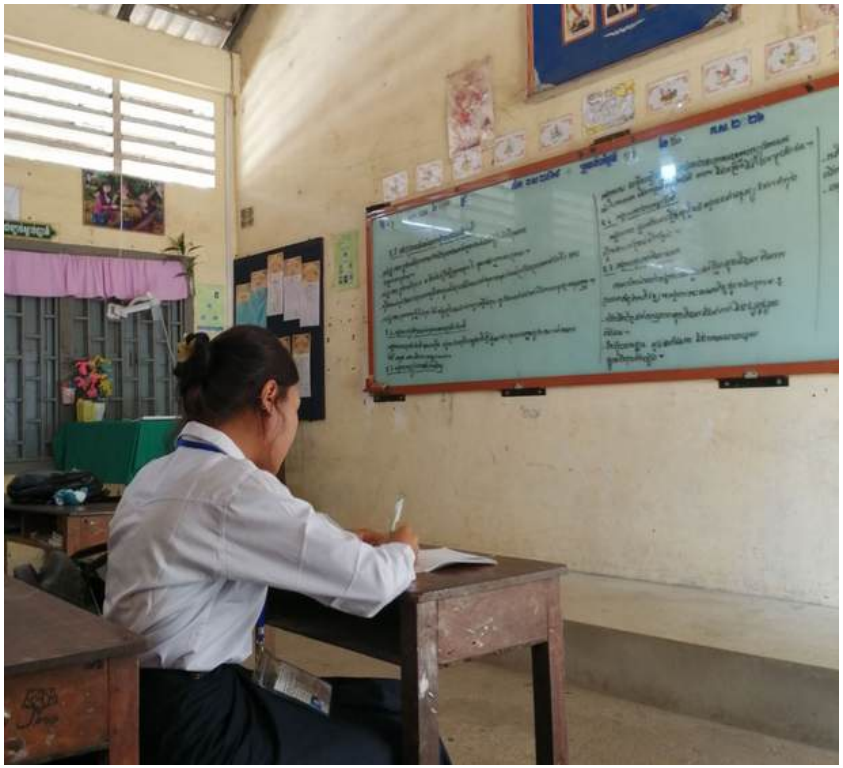
University Visit

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR

- Continue to improve student support and look at better integration into social work practice
- Expand the Day for Girls curriculum to provide more comprehensive sex education and inclusion of boys

A case study from

EDUCATION ADVOCACY



Dina (pseudonym) is a 16-year-old girl who lives in Ek Phnom district with her grandmother and three siblings since her parents migrated to Thailand for work and have not been able to return home. Dina is currently studying in Grade 9, but when she first started secondary school in Grade 7, she was often absent.

She often missed school because she did not have a clear plan for her future, and there was no one in her family to support or encourage her education. The family's difficult situation also made it hard for her to stay motivated.

To address this, the Education Advocacy (EA) team worked closely with Dina and her grandmother to help her stay in school. They provided continuous guidance, encouragement, and counseling, helping her understand the importance of education and supporting her in setting goals for her future.

CFI also supported Dina by providing a school uniform, school supplies, and a bicycle to make it easier for her to attend school. The EA team regularly follows up by visiting her at school and offering educational counseling, including discussions about her goals and the benefits of continuing her education.

After more than two years of support, Dina has shown clear improvement. Her attendance has significantly improved, especially during her Grade 9 academic year. Although she still struggles with some subjects, which can sometimes make her feel discouraged, she has developed a strong commitment to continue her studies.

Dina shared, "Even though I am not good at many subjects at school, I will continue my education. I want to finish Grade 9 and continue through Grade 12, then go to university. In the future, I want to be a police officer because I want to help my community. Thank you to CFI for the support that is changing my life."

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Throughout the past year, CFI was proud to support the Enabling Leadership program as it continued to deliver its leadership curriculum through soccer and LEGO-based activities. The program provided children with opportunities to develop teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and leadership skills in a fun and engaging environment.

A major milestone was reached in March 2026, when Enabling Leadership officially registered as an independent NGO in Cambodia. While they now operate independently, CFI continues to support their growth by providing operational guidance and access to our facilities, ensuring they have a strong foundation and a smooth transition. We look forward to continuing our partnership and seeing the lasting impact they will have on children and communities across Cambodia.

Next year, we will focus on youth empowerment activities driven by CFI including swimming, football, and workshops.





YOUTH EMPOWERMENT METRICS

- **363** students reached through football
- **292** students reached with Lego

SWIMMING PILOT

With a grant from the Phillips Foundation, CFI was able to launch a swimming program and anti-drowning campaign. First, we recruited a trainer of trainers and four local Khmer staff who knew how to swim. We spent a bit more than a month training them on the curriculum and play centered methodology.



Simultaneously, we worked with the two public schools and our learning center team to select students that most needed the swimming lessons. Although we targeted 80 students in our proposal, we had many more students interested, with 113 children (75 girls) who signed up for the program, ranging from grades 1-12. Some didn't come for various reasons, mainly due to parent/guardian concern, which led to a total of 106 students (72 girls) who were active in the program.



The final day for our swimming program was the fantastic event we did with Float to Survive, a partner organization under the grant. We started with a group of 29 adults (18 women) - CFI and partner staff. Then, we had 91 children (62 girls) join over two days. It was amazing to watch their excitement learning to float and how empowering it was for them within a short time to be able to understand the technique. We also invited local authorities from the public schools, department of social affairs, department of health and education department come to see how floating can be a part of the safety of their community and students.

We asked the children how they felt at the end of the program, and the following are the percentage of students that put a 4 or 5 on a scale from 1-5:

- 73% felt they now know how to swim
- 98% felt confident in the water now
- 88% now know what to do if they have a problem in the water
- 100% enjoyed the class
- 100% want to do more swimming classes

The project culminated with our participatory theater production created by partner Lakhon Komnit Organization. They did multiple workshops with our students and interns to understand the issue in the community and design the story. They suggested using a puppet for the drowning victim to best engage children and keep the play from being too traumatic. They also created a song with key messages in Khmer that we used during the performances to further engage children.

Our interns were supported through a series of workshops and rehearsals to act in the play and understand how to improvise during the audience participation. The play had 3 key scenes: 1) introducing the characters and the joy of rainy season and the children playing in the water, 2) the puppet almost drowning and lying to their mother about playing in the water, 3) the puppet drowning and the community suggestion traditional solutions (running with the victim over your shoulder, putting fire under the victim, etc.).

We invited the Cambodian Red Cross to join the performance and demonstrate how to properly perform CPR. We then performed the play at the two public schools and CFI twice, reaching 13 local authorities, 64 caregivers, and 477 students.







THE CFI FAMILY

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THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Without you, none of this important work would be possible – together, we are able to improve the lives of Cambodian children and their ability to grow up safe, fed, educated, and cared for.

Gönnerverein cfi children's future international

WHERE THERE BE DRAGONS

Martin James FOUNDATION

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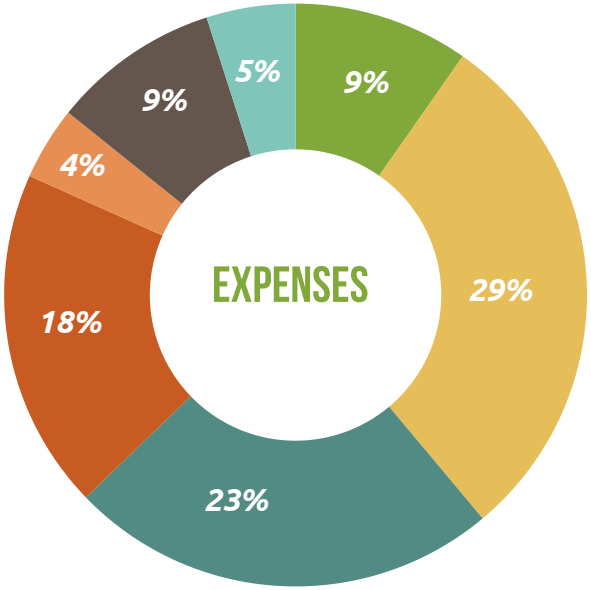
SE Asia Foundation it takes a girl to raise a village

FINANCIALS

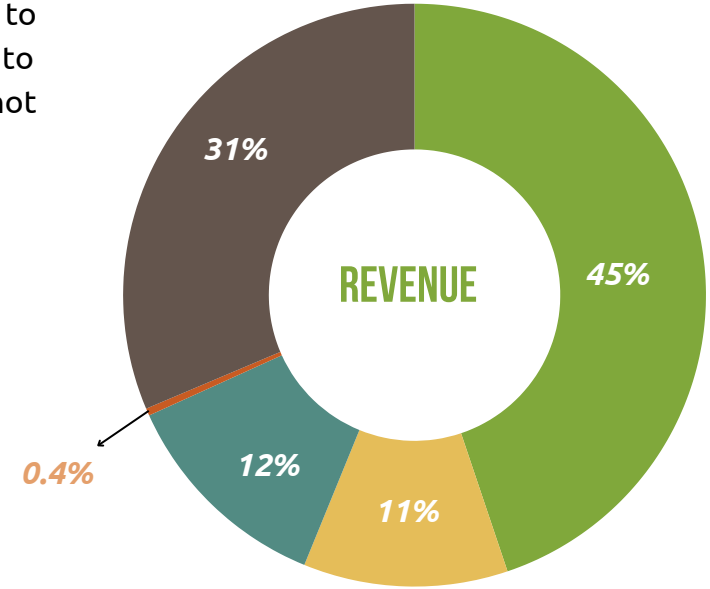
This year, programmatically CFI has reduced spending and income, as was predicted last fiscal year. This reduction is partially due to the separation with Enabling Leadership in March 2026.

The capital improvements project was finished, with total spending at $517,030 invested in the buildings and $97,842 infested in land improvements and $44,406 worth of remaining payments in FY2027.

Next fiscal year is expected to continue to decrease income and expenditures due to the finished capitalization project, but not drastically since CFI will open new programs as well.



Programs and services	$42,453
Social Work	$127,400
Education	$104,229
Youth Empowerment	$82,593
Swimming	$21,554
Management	$40,593
Fundraising	$17,763
Total Expense	**$503,957**



Foundation and other grants	$288,693
Individual donations and events	$73,052
Partnerships	$77,618
Capital Donation	$201,992
Other	$2,611
Total Revenue	**$643,966**



children's future

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