



Connective Paths Foundation
Community-led Change

CONNECTIVE PATHS

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

ABOUT CONNECTIVE PATHS

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The Connective Paths Foundation (CPF) is a nonprofit, non-stock, non-governmental organisation (NGO) registered in the Netherlands. **We aim to share the power with our partners working closest to the communities.** Our Vision is an international development sector wherein NGOs, community-based organisations (CBOs) and communities from the global south have **access to more equitable grant partnerships that support community-led change.** In short, we envision that NGOs and community-based organisations (CBOs) from the global south have greater access, capacities, and freedom:

ACCESS to more equitable partnerships that support their priorities and ensure their sustainability

CAPACITIES to design, manage and raise funds for community-led change initiatives

FREEDOM to choose their development partners, projects and localised approaches

Our Mission is to support effective development programmes that are rooted in listening and learning to communities—sharing the power, decision-making and the credit for achievements with the communities in the global south. We do this by:

1. Supporting Community-led Solutions

Addressing the most important development priorities identified by and with the NGOs, CBOs and communities in the global south, we work in 5 issue areas:



Women's rights,
livelihoods and
empowerment



Climate change
adaptation and
sustainable development



group of children laughing together

Violence-free households
and communities



Healthy and participatory
democracy



Community philanthropy
and volunteerism

CPF funds co-created solutions to accelerate progress towards gender equality and the SDG 2030 Agenda together with women's NGOs and CBOs—with a focus on reaching the most under-resourced and underrepresented grassroots women and community-based organisations in lower middle-income countries, such as the Philippines.

2. Strengthening Organisational Capacities

With a focus on women's rights organisations and community-based organisations (CBOs) in the global south, we aim to strengthen capacities in **5 skill areas**:



Project management,
financial management and
increasing organisation
effectiveness



Resource mobilisation and
local fundraising



Gender analysis,
mainstreaming and
inclusion strategy
development



Using and generating
research and data for
evidence-based social
norm change



Advocacy, local
governance and
community mobilising

Through long-term partnerships that include systematic organisation development approaches, the grantees are supported to gain measurable institutional capacities in order to sustain their work towards their mission and serving the communities. Thus, CPF ensures that the women's NGOs and CBOs receiving grants have the best chance of success with their initiatives.

Central to our approach is our participatory grantmaking. We have developed an Action Framework on how to implement equitable partnerships—testing specific approaches, tools and methods to put into action principles of co-design, model co-implementation, and pioneer co-evaluation approaches throughout the grantmaking process.

OUR MAIN ACTIONS:



Participatory grantmaking: to model equitable partnerships that share decision-making with community-based organisations, especially women's rights organisations



Research & advocacy: to merge grassroots experience and global evidence to influence more decision-makers and donors to *#shiftthepower* to global south organisations



Organisation development: to increase the strategic position and sustainability of community-based organisations—for greater freedom to choose their development partners and achieve their goals...beyond the project cycle.

CPF also provides advisory services to international organisations on applying **5 dimensions of equity** to ensure more equitable partnerships:

- 1.** collaborative **roles and responsibilities** between global south and global north NGOs
- 2.** equitable access to **resources**
- 3.** shared **decision-making**
- 4.** **prevention of exploitation, abuse and violence** in the aid sector, including violence against local women by international staff
- 5.** advancing the **strategic interests of global south** NGOs, CBOs and communities

See *In Focus: Equitable Partnerships* for more details

OUR CORE VALUES

- 💡 **Community Empowerment:** We believe in the power of local voices and capacities, and we focus on strategies for communities to lead and shape their own future.
- 💛 **Equitable Partnership:** Partnership is at the heart of everything we do, ensuring shared resources and decision-making, shared recognition, and shared success!
- 🌍 **Sustainability:** We are dedicated to fostering long-term solutions with long-term partners that benefit people and the planet.
- 🗣️ **Inclusivity:** Every voice matters. We champion equity and ensure diverse perspectives are heard.
- 🌟 **Trust-Based:** We nurture trust-based relationships, prioritising open and honest discussions and processes that guide our actions and decision-making.

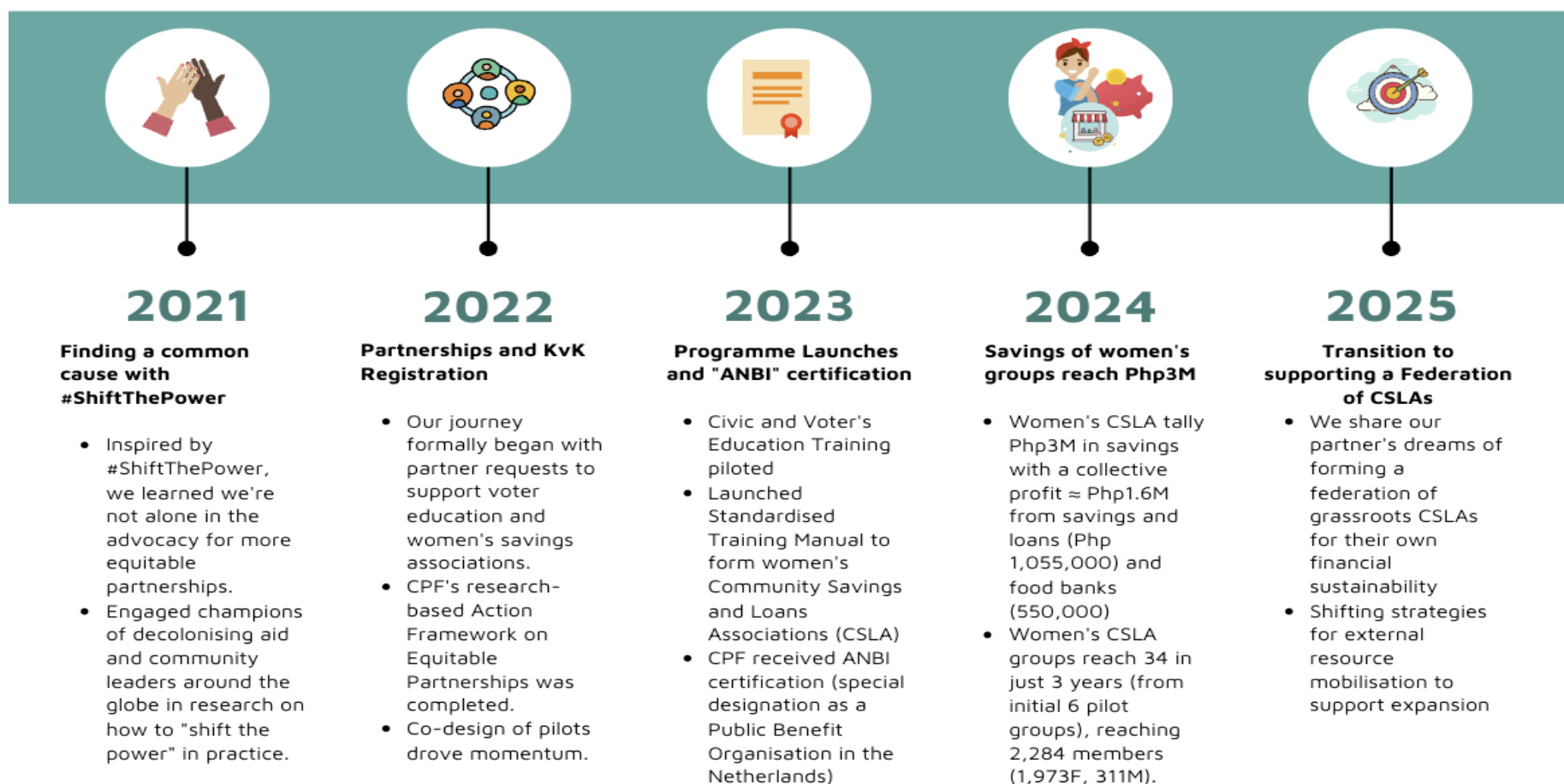
JOURNEY OF CONNECTIVE PATHS

While CPF was formally registered in 2022, our journey started the year before—sparked by the inspiration of the #ShiftThe Power Movement and finding the [open letter to International NGOs who are looking to ‘localise’ their operations](#) signed by over 200 NGOs from the global south. Many of them had been approached separately by international NGOs that wanted to learn about their experiences in local fundraising and building community philanthropy, but in ways that all felt were ‘extractive’ and a means for INGOs to increasingly mobilise national resources to fill their own funding gaps as they move their offices from the global north to countries where they implement in order “to be closer or pivot to the field”.

CPF Founder then expanded an ongoing research on funding for women’s rights organisations to focus more squarely on the decolonisation of aid. The idea of building Connective Paths Foundation began to take root...



OUR CONNECTIVE JOURNEY, SO FAR



In the face of fragmentation and silos, CPF focuses on the connective aspects of community development. We are proud of our journey so far, and our partners inspire renewed hope for our next strategic phase 2025-2029.

Below are the highlights of our results in 2025. With the closing of the Civic and Voter's Education Project, CPF focused its resources and technical support to the Solidarity of Oppressed Filipino People (SOFP) and their co-created SISTER Programme.



The SiSTER Programme ultimately aims to improve the wellbeing of women and their families by:

1. increasing family income and savings to improve their resilience during socio-economic shocks;
2. increasing women's participation in household decision-making; and
3. preventing violence against women and children (VAWC) and HIV and AIDS.

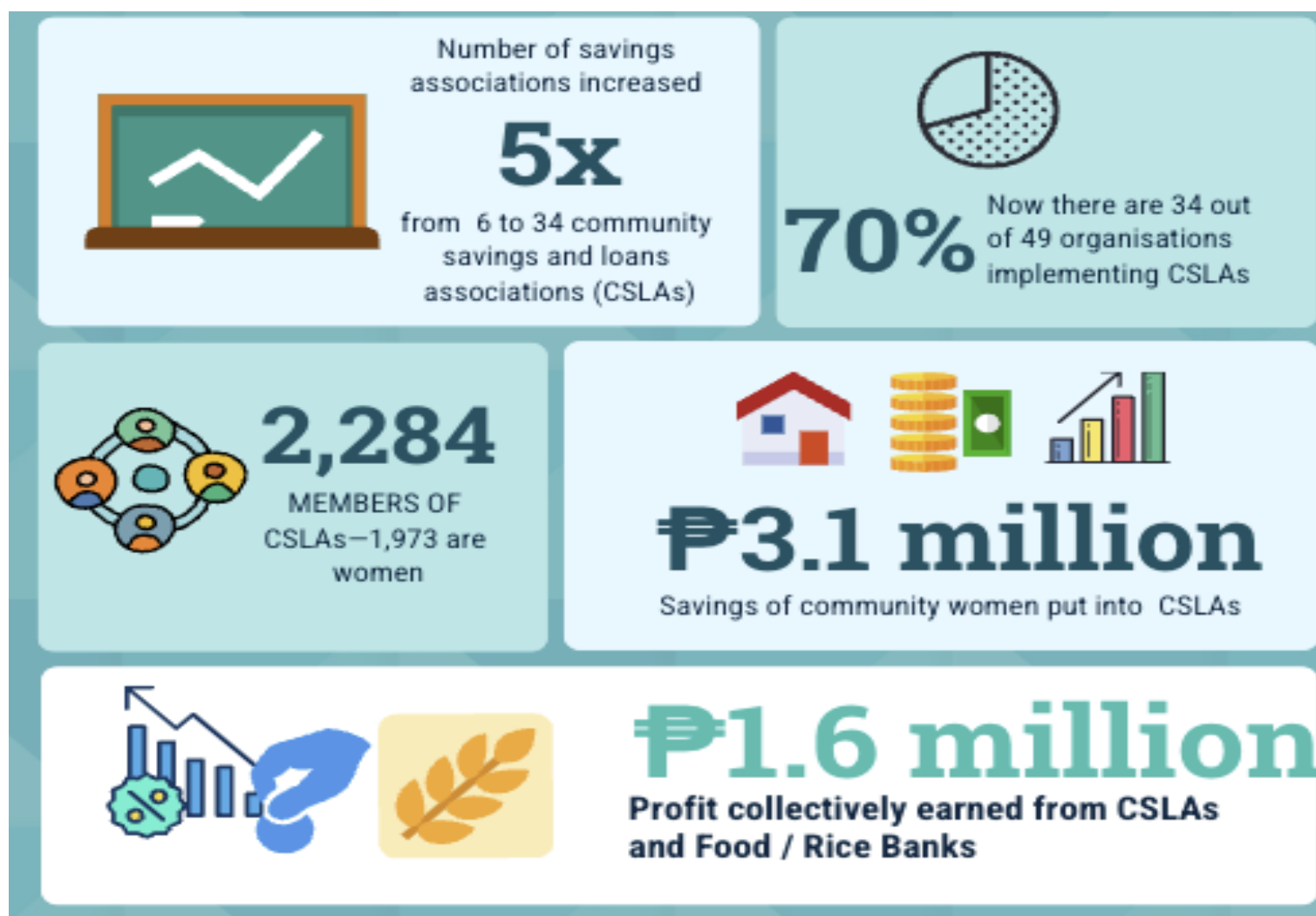


Our Triple Approach

1. CSLA DEVELOPMENT - *community savings and loans associations* (CSLA)* in urban poor communities
2. Grassroots Business and Entrepreneurship Skills Training (GBEST) - WOMEN'S BUSINESS SKILLS TRAINING for women to develop and manage small grassroots business enterprises
3. SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT to transform harmful gender and social norms that perpetuate gender inequality and violence against women and children (VAWC), and increase risk for HIV and AIDS in urban poor communities

OUR RESULTS IN 2024

THE LEADERSHIP AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE WOMEN AND THEIR COMMUNITIES (RESULTS IN NUMBERS)



DETAILED ACTIVITIES

Q1 2024

- ❖ **January 14, 2024** – joint face to face meeting discussion about Securities and Exchange Commission application. The SOFP secretariat discussed on how to provide online zoom orientation to all member organizations on how to secure SEC registration.
- ❖ **February 17, 2024** – cluster zoom meeting for 6 clusters regarding SEC registration assistance, securing valid IDs, 5000 pesos for registration expenses, Tax Identification Number of the board members.
- ❖ **March 2024** – zoom meeting with staff regarding survey questionnaires, run the SPSS for data analytics.
- ❖ We also conducted Joint Board of Directors and Staff Meeting which is being held every quarter of the year and whenever there is an urgent matter for discussion and decision. The Board discussed about the creation of a more comprehensive database of member organizations of SOFP and the profiling of the individual members to be used for funding resources and program implementation.
- ❖ Area visits of Community Organizers to check how are the CSLAs are running in their own areas. Based from the reports of corruption, mismanagement and lack of commitment from the CSLAs members and officers, aside from the limited knowledge of COs in the overall operations of CSLA, SOFP decided that there is a need for more trainings for Community Organizers. We have conducted TOT with the COs, BODs and ANAK Foodbank's officers as participants. ANAK officers shared the process and the operations of the foodbank and how to properly explain the day-to-day activities of the CSLA.
- ❖ Discussion on Detailed Implementation Plan
- ❖ Expansion strategies
- ❖ Strategy plan on CSLA implementation

Q2 2024

- ❖ 10 COs, 2 project management, 2 secretariat, 1 ExeComm attended the regular meeting and gave updates on the monitoring of the 6 CSLA member organizations. The BOD representative of each CSLA area monitors the implementation and also provide reports on the status of the organization.
- ❖ SOFP partnership with other organizations has been established especially with the Office of Senator Risa Hontiveros. Through this partnership, SOFP was able to get a livelihood grant for 8 member organizations. Each organization will receive Php400,000 as a grant to beneficiaries from Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) of Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) funded by the Office of Senator Risa Hontiveros.
- ❖ 6 COs monitored the 6 CSLAs and they provided assistance on savings and foodbank mechanism; According to reports, some of the officers of the CSLAs are experiencing problems such as lack of commitment from members, inability to save due to economic issues, and corruption. The CSLA member are empowered to report to SOFP whenever there is an occurrence of these issues. After the report of the CO or BOD, SOFP secretariat will schedule a meeting with the CSLA and then all issues will be acted upon.
- ❖ Grassroots Business and Entrepreneurship Skills Training (GBEST) conducted on May 5, 2024 for DSKO with 3 males and 19 females

Q3 2024

- ❖ Monitoring of 6 CSLA member organizations through FB Group Chat. Every CSLA has its own FB group chat, SOFP secretariat is also included in the gc; through this mechanism, the secretariat can easily monitor the day-to-day activities of each CSLA.
- ❖ Secretary General reviewed the GBest manual with the management committee and it has been decided that we will need to update and revise the manual for easier understanding from the community.
- ❖ 12 COs and the secretariat attended the VAW session conducted by Cookee from CPF.
- ❖ This was conducted during the DRR training last Sep. 15, 2024
- ❖ 5 COs conducted echo trainings on VAW in their communities using the learning from the VAW session conducted by Cookee.
- ❖

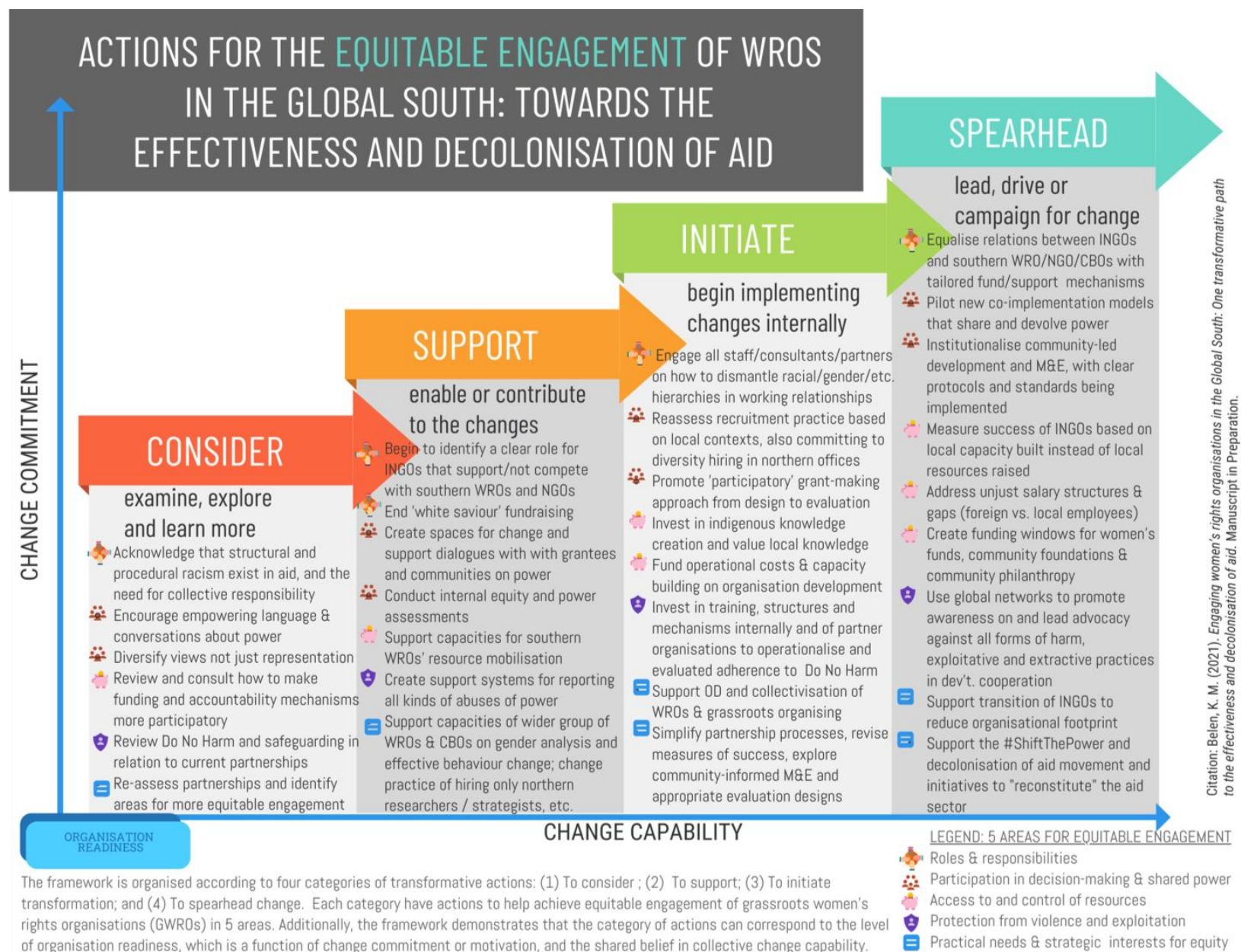
Q4 2024

- ❖ October 11-18, 2024 – VAWG session conducted by Cookee from CPF attended by 10 COs, 2PMs, 2 Secretariat, 1 ExeComm
- ❖ November 8, 15, and 22 - VAWG session conducted by Cookee from CPF attended by
- ❖ November 22, 2024 – sharing of best practice of NMP Bicol for CSLA, Rocsan, Jessie, Belinda, pax from Leyte and Bulacan for PVCA
- ❖ 17-18 December 2024 - General Assembly attended by 10 COs, 5 BOD, 1 Project Management, 2 Secretariat. Assessment and Planning for the year 2024.
- ❖ December 18, 2024 – conducted video interview for Belinda, Juvy, Cherry, Virginia at ANAK Foodbank located in Brgy. Capri Nova QC.

IN FOCUS

EQUITABLE PARTNERSHIP IN PRACTICE

Below is the Action Framework developed by CPF, which guides its participatory grantmaking throughout the grant cycle.



SAVINGS AND MICRO-BUSINESSES: A TOOL FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT, WELL-BEING AND EQUALITY IN THE HOUSEHOLD

As of the end of 2024, Women's CSLA tally Php3M in savings with a collective profit ≈ Php1.6M from savings and loans (Php 1,055,000) and food banks (550,000). Women's CSLA groups reach 34 in just 3 years (from initial 6 pilot groups), reaching 2,284 members (1,973F, 311M). The partners are currently undertaking a mid-term survey to measure changes that they want to see in the lives of women and their families. Below is the Theory of Change developed by SOFP themselves with support from CPF. It shows the simple, though not easy, pathway to change and the main results that SOFP wanted to achieve through the SiSTER project.

SiSTER Theory of Change

If we do this...

- Train women on savings and small business skills
- Strengthen community savings & loans associations (CSLA)

which will lead to changes in ...

- More women will join CSLAs and increase their savings and income
- Decrease in women borrowing from loan sharks
- Women can negotiate with their husbands re: household expense & savings, number of children, etc.

+ Train women and their spouses on gender equality, women's empowerment, domestic violence, SRHR, HIV prevention

Then it will directly result in...

- Women will increase knowledge on savings + business skills & 8 VSLAs with stronger governance and organisation capacities
- Community women and men with greater knowledge on gender equality, VAWC, SRHR and HIV

And contribute to our desired impact of...

- Increase family savings
- More families can pay their bills
- Increase food security
- Can afford health care and education
- Decrease school drop-outs, child trafficking, prostitution
- Less domestic violence
- Improve maternal health / SRHR

OUR FINANCIAL POSITION

METHODS OF ACQUIRING, AND SOURCES OF INCOME

- (1) Revenues from income generating activities – CPF will initially be self-funded by the founders. As seed fund, the co-founder and Director will donate Eur 10,000 to 20,000 a year, for the first two to three years, from the revenue of her development consulting company and other activities.
- (2) Individual giving (e.g., people interested in helping communities in developing countries can donate via our website) – The CPF website will promote impactful altruism, and have a link that allows individuals or corporations to support the foundation's aims in general, or specific projects that we will feature on the website.
- (3) Donor Grants – CPF will submit proposals to receive grants from foundations with similar aims as CPF and other donor agencies
- (4) Knowledge products or training that CPF will produce for a fee – CPF can generate income as an organisation by developing knowledge products, providing advisory services, and training on community-led development. The fees earned will fund the foundation's cause, following the 90% rule for ANBI status of foundations (i.e., 90% of funds received go to useful activities that pursue the objective of the institution).

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ([SEE SEPARATE DOCUMENT](#))

“

“Equity is not just a future goal, it means reflecting on past injustices and working tirelessly in the present to correct these.”

Katherine Belen, CPF Founder



#SHIFTTHEPOWER