



Connective Paths Foundation

community-led change

Annual Report 2025



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FOREWORD

The year 2025 marks a pivotal juncture for Connective Paths Foundation (CPF).

We find ourselves at the end of one strategic plan cycle and in the exciting process of formulating and setting our new directions. However, this transition occurs within a drastically changing development landscape that demands urgent and critical reflection.

Today, civil society is navigating what can only be described as a "triple threat". We are confronting the severe shrinking of development cooperation funds, the alarming rise of populism alongside aggressive anti-rights and anti-gender movements, and an increasing crackdown on the autonomy of civil society organisations through tighter government regulations and shrinking civic space. These overlapping crises threaten to isolate the very communities that require the most solidarity.

In the face of these systemic challenges, CPF is not stepping back; we are pivoting with purpose. Our new strategic directions are heavily focused on allocating resources to increase both our partners' and our own capacities for alternative, local resource mobilisation. We are also strengthening our systems for participatory grantmaking by learning from feminist funds globally and adapting these progressive models to the Philippine context.

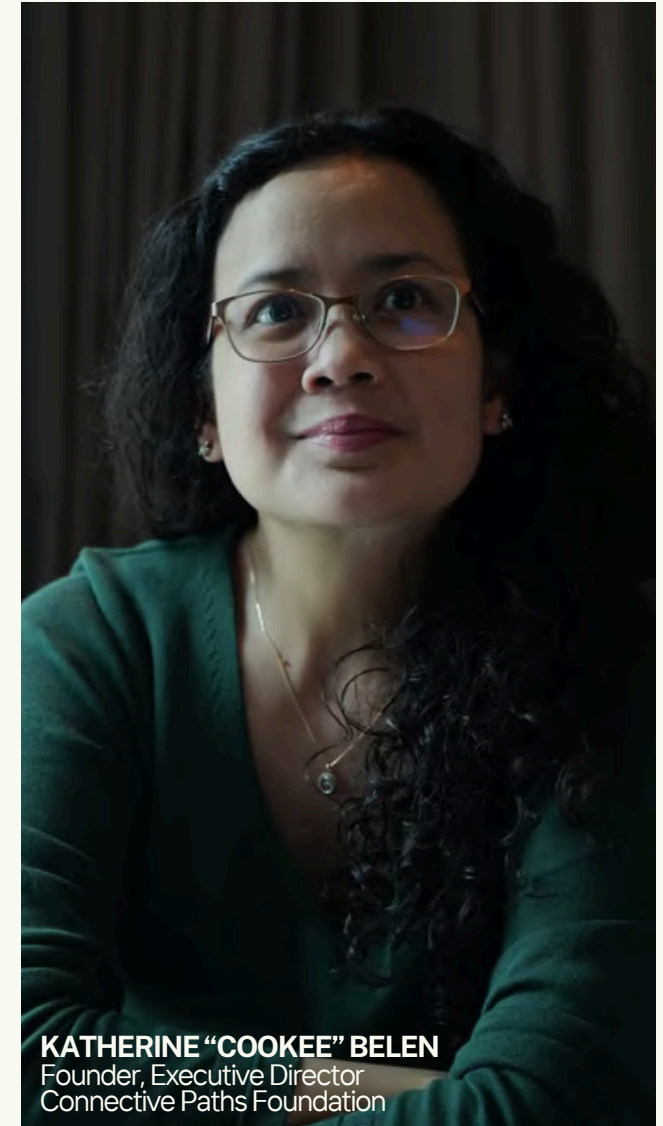
On another note, we are proud to announce the expansion of our partnerships to Uganda, where we are deliberately focusing on the multiply marginalised by working with women with disabilities in rural areas in Eastern Uganda. With this, we wish to highlight that true solidarity requires an intersectional approach that transcends borders.

Further, we are cultivating the next generation of development practitioners by advancing an experiential learning programme for Master's students in International Development in the Netherlands, providing trainings on Responsible Leadership in the UN and other International Organizations, with a focus on perspectives from the Global South.

As we close this chapter and boldly step into the next, we remain deeply committed to shifting the power back to the grassroots. As you go through this annual report, it will not only outline CPF's results, but also highlight the capabilities and achievements of grassroots organisations in creating positive change in their communities when equitably supported and empowered.



We invite you to join us in this continuing journey toward genuine, community-led change.



KATHERINE "COOKE" BELEN
Founder, Executive Director
Connective Paths Foundation



ABOUT CONNECTIVE PATHS FOUNDATION

VISION

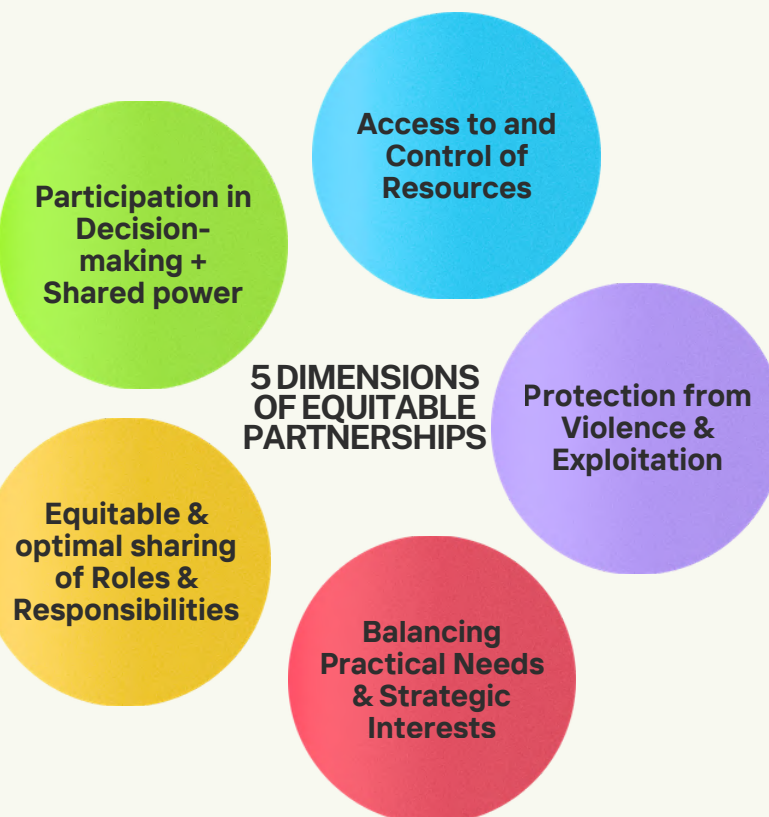
An international development sector wherein NGOs, CBOs, and communities from the Global South have access to equitable partnerships, participatory funding mechanisms, and greater power to shape their own development priorities and futures.

MISSION

CPF's purpose is to support effective and community-led development programmes rooted in listening, learning, and shared decision-making through participatory grantmaking, organisational strengthening, and action research and advocacy.

Our mission is two-pronged:

1. To support community-led organisations and solutions in breaking the cycle of poverty through livelihoods and women's empowerment; and
2. To shift donor and NGO practice toward community-led development and equitable partnerships.



OUR CORE VALUES

1

Community Leadership:

Communities are experts of their own realities and should lead decisions affecting their lives.

2

Feminist and Gender Justice:

CPF centres women's leadership, intersectionality, inclusion, and transformative gender justice.

3

Equity and Shared Power:

CPF promotes equitable partnerships that challenge extractive and donor-driven development practices.

4

Participation and Accountability:

Meaningful participation, transparency, and mutual accountability guide CPF's work.

5

Learning and Adaptation:

CPF values reflective practice, adaptive management, and continuous learning.

6

Solidarity and Care:

CPF prioritises relationships of solidarity, trust, wellbeing, and collective care.



OUR CONNECTED PATHS

Timeline on our journey to shifting the power and supporting community-led change



While Connective Paths Foundation was formally registered in the Netherlands in 2022, its roots can be traced back to the year 2021, when its founder encountered an **open letter** to international NGOs that are looking to 'localise' their operations.

The letter, signed by over 200 NGOs from the Global South, decried the power imbalance and inequality that international NGOs perpetuate in their localisation agenda. By setting up local affiliates and mobilising resources 'domestically' in the Global South, international NGOs compete with local organisations for limited funding, weakening the latter and rendering them dependent on grants.

Inspired to contribute to this global movement to decolonise aid and support grassroots organisations through equitable partnerships, Connective Paths Foundation was established.

2021: Finding a common cause with #ShiftThePower

Inspired by #ShiftThePower, we learned that **we are not alone in the advocacy for more equitable partnerships**. Alongside aid decolonisation champions and community leaders worldwide, we embarked on research on how to **translate #ShiftThePower into genuine practice**.

2022: Partnership Requests and CPF's Formal Registration

Our journey officially began with partner requests to support voter education and women's savings associations. **Furthermore**, CPF also completed its **research-based Action Framework on Equitable Partnerships** this year.

2023: Programme Launches and ANBI Certification

We piloted the **Civic and Voter's Education Training**, and launched a **standardised Training Manual** to guide women's organisations in establishing their own Community Savings and Loans Associations (CSLA). This year CPF was certified as an **ANBI** or Public Benefit Organisation by the Dutch tax office.

2024: Partner CSLAs' savings reached PHP 3M

Women's savings groups supported by CPF's partner, SOFP, **generated savings of PhP 3 million (€50k)**, alongside a **collective profit exceeding PhP 1.6 million (€26k) from lending and microenterprise foodbanks**. What began as a pilot with 6 groups expanded to **32 organisations during the first 3 years of the programme**, reaching a total of **2,284 members—1,973 of whom are women**.

2025: Deepening community-led practice



THE CHANGING DEVELOPMENT LANDSCAPE

2025 was a year of worsening global inequalities. Armed conflicts, widespread economic instability, and climate crises continued to expose the fragility of capital-driven development models. Marginalised groups in the Global South—particularly women, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ individuals—bore the brunt of these overlapping crises. Yet, when community-rooted interventions were most critical, they faced severe funding cuts as the international development sector faced unprecedented financial shocks.

The global aid infrastructure experienced a historic decline, accelerating a downward trend that has plagued the sector for the last three to four years. According to preliminary data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Official Development Assistance (ODA) plummeted by a record 23.1% globally in 2025—the largest annual drop in history, dragging aid down to levels not seen since 2015¹. This shift was heavily driven by the sudden dismantling and operational freeze of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) early in the year, which alone resulted in a nearly 57% decline in U.S. foreign assistance. The fallout from the USAID collapse, exacerbated by significant budget cuts from other major Global North donors, caused severe pipeline breaks for critical health, education, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, and poverty-reduction programmes worldwide².

The Philippines has been a key recipient of USAID aid, supporting humanitarian and health initiatives in the country, including efforts to combat HIV/AIDS and promote family planning, among many others³. This not only left Philippine NGOs and feminist, grassroots organisations highly vulnerable, but their beneficiaries and marginalised communities as well.

Compounding the financial crisis is a growing, well-funded “gender backlash” that threatens to roll back hard-won progress for gender equality and human rights⁴. Across many countries, anti-rights movements are increasingly targeting sexual and reproductive health, comprehensive sexuality education, and LGBTQ+ rights through restrictive policy reforms and disinformation campaigns. Stripped of reliable institutional funding, local organisations found themselves severely constrained in their ability to defend these rights and sustain essential community services.

These global disruptions actively shaped CPF’s strategic direction in 2025. The precarious nature of relying on a few major donors from the Global North underscored the urgent need to insulate our grassroots partners from international aid volatility. In response to this landscape, CPF adapted by prioritising flexible, unrestricted funding and long-term institutional accompaniment. We focused on building autonomous, local resource mobilisation capacities within our partner organisations to reduce their reliance on traditional, unpredictable aid. By shifting power directly into the hands of community-led groups, CPF’s strategy ensures that vital, rights-based interventions remain sustainable and firmly grounded in local realities, regardless of shifting global political tides.

¹ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (n.d.). Official development assistance (ODA) trends and statistics. <https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/sub-issues/oda-trends-and-statistics.html>

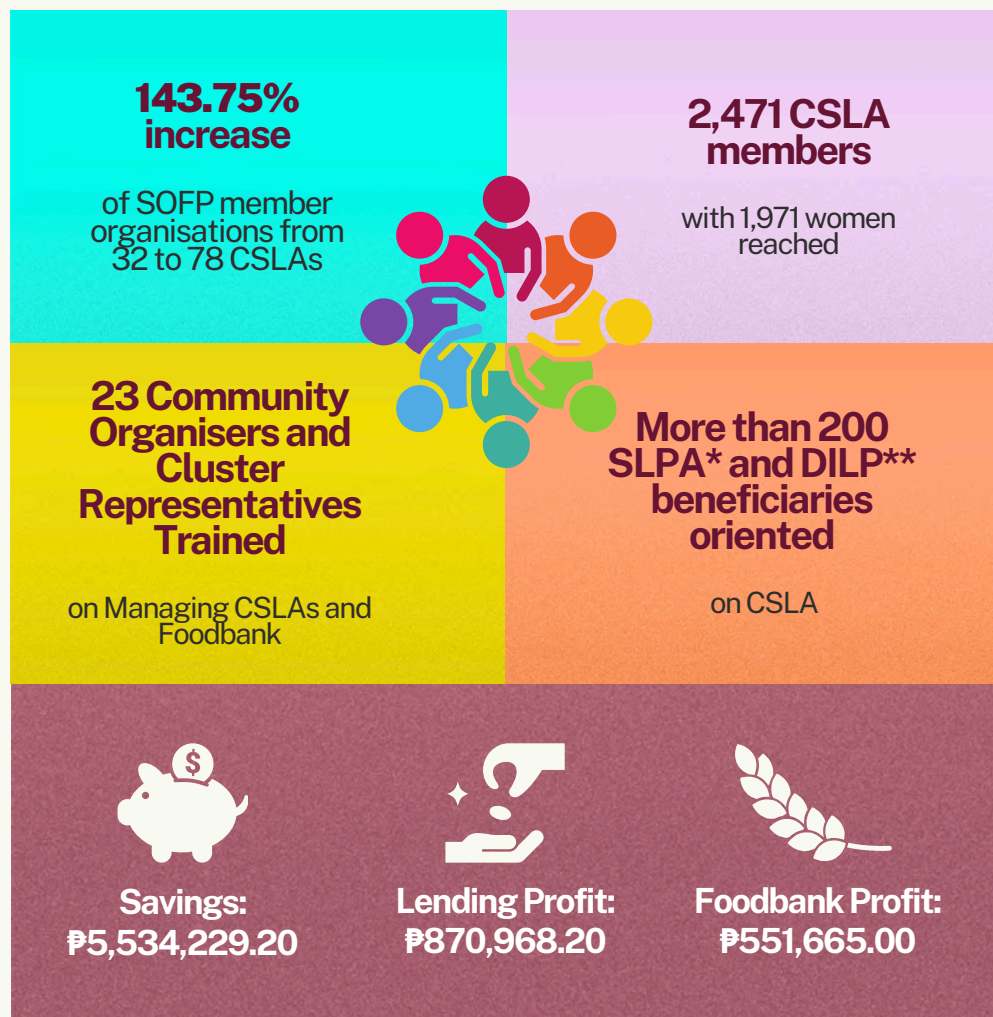
² Trinh, V. D. (2025, April 1). As Western aid dries up, Southeast Asia faces the fallout. East Asia Forum. <https://eastasiaforum.org/2025/04/01/as-western-aid-dries-up-southeast-asia-faces-the-fallout/>

³ Impact of US aid freeze on PH: 'It's small anyway'. (2025, February 7). INQUIRER.net. <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2032654/impact-of-us-aid-freeze-on-ph-its-small-anyway>

⁴ Tabbush, C., et al. (2025). Understanding backlash against gender equality: Evidence, trends and policy responses. UN Women. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2025/09/understanding-backlash-against-gender-equality-evidence-trends-and-policy-responses>



KEY RESULTS OF OUR GRANTMAKING:



* **SLPA** - Sustainable Livelihood Program Association
** **DILP** - Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE) Integrated Livelihood Program

A Story of Change: From Hardship to Leadership

Through CPF's partnership with the Solidarity of Oppressed Filipino People (SOFP), we implemented the SiSTER Programme (see page 9), helping improve the wellbeing of women and their families.

For Amythist Ortego, a mother of five from San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, life once felt like it was spiraling sideways. With her husband unemployed for over two years, she often found herself drinking with neighbors just to momentarily escape her overwhelming burdens.

"Walang-wala po talaga kami noong time na 'yon" (We really had absolutely nothing during that time), she recalled, relying on those temporary distractions to cope with her family's severe financial struggles.

Everything began to shift when SOFP Community Organizer Juvy Letada invited her to help build a Community Savings and Loans Association (CSLA) in their area.

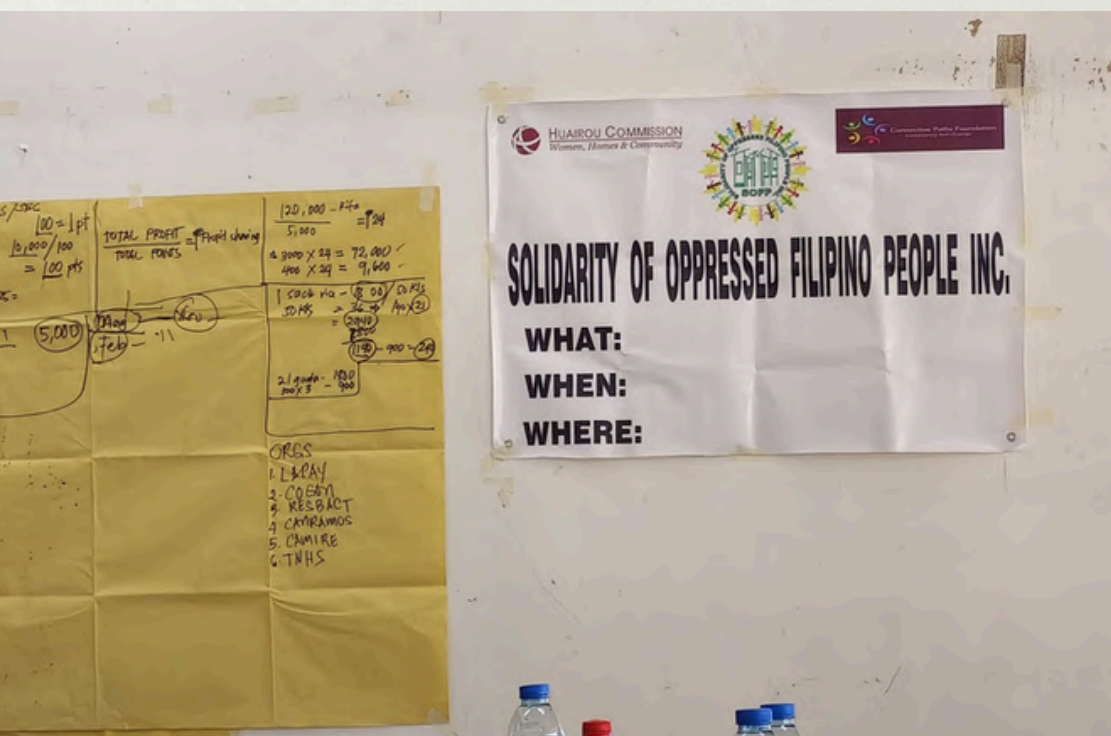
Supported by CPF under the SiSTER programme, Amythist discovered a practical way to save collectively, access small loans, and change the lives of other women in their community.

"Natutunan ko kung paano po mag-savings, at kung ano ang maidudulot nito sa aming buhay" (I learned how to save, and what it could do for our lives), she shared, realizing the impact this community-led program could have on her family.



Together with her husband who also joined their CSLA, they began rebuilding their family's stability. What started as a simple invitation to save became a major turning point, transforming her personal hardship into empowerment.

Today, Amythist proudly serves as a Cluster Representative and the National Chairperson of SOFP, proving the life-changing potential of grassroots organizing and long-term allyship.



Community Savings and Loans Association (CSLA)

A **Community Savings and Loan Association (CSLA)** is a **self-managed group that meets regularly to save together and take out small, short-term loans from its pooled savings**. These usually operate in one-year cycles and end with an annual “share-out” (distribution of savings plus loan profits—earned from interest gained from lending—back to members). CSLAs are designed for communities that do not have easy access to formal financial services, using simple, transparent rules and record-keeping that members can monitor and trust.

The CSLA, modeled after the global methodology, *Village Savings and Loans (VSLAs)*, is considered a leading best practice for financial inclusion of rural communities. These programmes have been evaluated to increase economic empowerment, enhance women’s economic participation and decision-making in the household, and serve as a springboard for other behavior and social norm change interventions—such as reducing violence against women, and promoting peace and social cohesion.

Rice Banks or Foodbanks

In the SiSTER Programme, CSLAs do more than provide savings and small loans. Many groups also operate a **rice bank or foodbank** as a small, **community-based enterprise that helps members access basic goods while generating additional income for the association**. In this way, the food or rice bank strengthens CSLA members’ food security, creates another source of group earnings, and supports the wider social and community goals of the organisation.

With the purpose of supporting the collective well-being of members—especially women and low-income households with limited access to livelihoods and basic necessities—rice banks or foodbanks also enhance the CSLA’s social protection role. Twenty percent of monthly earnings are allocated to Management, Emergency, Social, and Disaster sub-funds, which help respond to urgent household needs, family emergencies, and community crises. These foodbanks function not just as businesses for profit, but as shared mechanisms for care, solidarity, and community resilience.



Solidarity in Savings and Transformation for Empowerment and Resilience (SiSTER) Programme

The SiSTER Programme is a long-term allyship programme of SOFP and CPF that started in 2022. The SiSTER Programme aims to facilitate the economic empowerment of families in urban and rural poor areas, primarily women, and promote their dignity and rights to livelihood, health, sexual and reproductive health, and safety.

By the end of 2029, the SiSTER Programme aims to improve the well-being 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.

SiSTER Programme-Phase 2: Scaling success 2026-2029

- Documents the best practice of the SOFP programme supporting foodbanks and the success story of ANAK Foodbank
- Works with SOFP to translate their best practices and learning to develop a comprehensive Training Programme
- Supports SOFP to scale up the CSLA and Foodbank Model to its more than 100 member People's Organisations (PO)

Our Triple Approach:



1. CSLA DEVELOPMENT - Establish and strengthen CSLAs* for financial resilience and collective action

2. WOMEN'S BUSINESS SKILLS TRAINING** - Equip women to develop and manage small grassroots business enterprises.

3. SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION AND EMPOWERMENT - Challenge harmful norms to advance gender equality and prevent VAWC in urban poor communities.

** based on the international village savings and loans associations (VSLA) methodology.*

*** through Grassroots Business & Entrepreneurship Skills Training (G-BEST)*

SOFP's Strategic Goals and Objectives

The start of Phase 2 of SiSTER in 2026 coincides with the launch of SOFP's new Strategy Plan (2026-2028).

SOFP's strategy focuses on organisational strengthening and education, highlighted by key milestones to train new leaders and community organisers. Below are the 5 strategic objectives in their new Strategy Plan:

- 1. Strengthen the Organisation and Grassroots Base:** Build a nationwide network of community member organisations, cultivate local leadership, and enhance internal reporting and communication systems.
- 2. Promote Education and Consciousness Building:** Heighten public awareness of social issues while actively delivering political and rights-based education to communities.
- 3. Advance Advocacy and Policy Engagement:** Influence local and national policies addressing poverty and inequality while forging strong alliances with NGOs and people's movements.
- 4. Strengthen Socio-Economic Initiatives:** Promote sustainable economic alternatives and foodbank efforts through the expansion of the CSLA mechanism.
- 5. Promote Women's Rights, Peace, and Justice:** Document and respond to cases of women's rights violations while driving solidarity campaigns and peace-building initiatives.



KEY RESULTS OF OUR ADVOCACY:

Research, Advocacy, and Knowledge Influence

Research, advocacy, and knowledge generation are central to CPF's vision of reshaping global development practices. Because conversations around decolonising aid remain heavily dominated by Global North actors, CPF actively amplifies the lived realities of grassroots organisations, using practitioner-informed evidence to challenge extractive, top-down models. Another key focus will be strengthening feminist analysis within this discourse to highlight how patriarchy, exclusion, and inequality shape aid systems.

By enhancing our digital engagement and building strategic global networks, CPF aims to be recognised not only as a grantmaker, but as a credible, practice-grounded contributor to systems change.

Click the thumbnails or hyperlinks to watch the videos:



Connective Paths Foundation

[YouTube Hyperlink](#)
[Facebook Post Hyperlink](#)

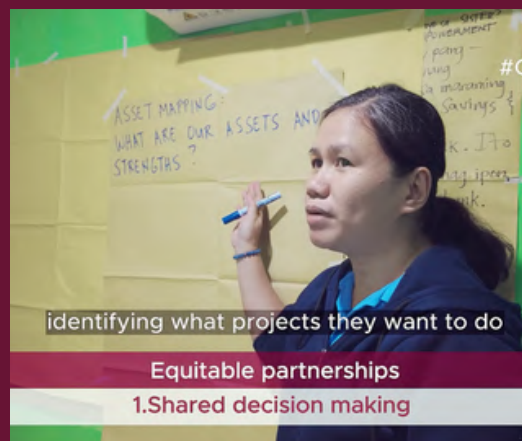


Raising women's incomes and spirits--SISTER PROGRAMME

[YouTube Hyperlink](#)
[Facebook Post Hyperlink](#)

ESTABLISHING CPF'S DIGITAL PRESENCE:

CPF successfully **developed and rolled out a communications plan**, launching active social media campaigns across Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and LinkedIn. This directly achieves our objective to develop and implement a communications and advocacy strategy, and operationalise a key action to strengthen CPF's website, social media presence, and digital communications. By strengthening its digital platforms, **CPF is actively increasing its visibility, credibility, engagement, and potential for policy influence.**



ADVOCACY AND PARTNERSHIP DOCUMENTATION:

CPF produced and published a portfolio of multimedia knowledge products and informational content. Key 2025 outputs included documentary-style videos and feature posts highlighting the SOFP partnership and stories of change of women who gained confidence and skills in savings.

Explanatory content tackling core advocacy concepts such as Participatory Grantmaking, Principles of Shared Power, Shifting the Power, and structural barriers facing NGOs/CBOs were also posted.



HOW WE WORK EQUITABLY

This section outlines our approach to community-led development, demonstrating our continued commitment to shift power to grassroots organisations in the Global South.

Approach 1: Participatory Grantmaking and Grassroots Resourcing

Strategic Goal: Strengthen and resource grassroots feminist and community-led organisations through participatory, flexible, and trust-based grantmaking approaches.

Participatory grantmaking and grassroots resourcing form the core foundation of CPF's mission to support women-led, community-based, and emerging organisations historically excluded from direct funding.

Because traditional aid systems prioritise large, formalised entities with short-term, donor-driven models, smaller grassroots groups routinely struggle to secure institutional backing.

In response, CPF provides flexible core funding that allows local organisations to strengthen their institutional sustainability, compensate community volunteers, and invest in leadership development. We model this by directly resourcing programmes designed and led by grassroots women's organisations (GWOs) for priorities they independently identify. Through these trust-based partnerships, we deliver long-term accompaniment via phased, multi-year grants.

Key Results:

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT:

CPF contributed to the core funding of its longest-running partner, **Solidarity for Oppressed Filipino People (SOFP)**—completing the first 4 years of their **Partnership Agreement (Phase 1)**. Funding covers part of staff salaries and community organisers (CO) allowances—**enabling them to sustain their operations, community work, and critical monitoring efforts**. By providing unrestricted operational support, SOFP is able to respond to the increase in community demand for their support.



GRASSROOTS EXPANSION:

Empowered by CPF's flexible funding model, **SOFP expanded its reach from 32 to 78 community-based organisations, securing a 143.75% growth rate**. SOFP now supports these women's groups to form and strengthen their

CSLAs and Foodbanks—expanding technical support to organisations that wished to start their own savings groups. This achievement included the successful onboarding and training of new groups alongside continued technical assistance to existing SOFP member organisations.

PARTNERSHIP BUILDING AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

CPF conducted an initial exploratory meeting and successfully completed the partner onboarding of PINASAMA, a grassroots community-based organisation supporting Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) in Quezon City, Philippines. This process identified PINASAMA's priority areas for CPF's upcoming targeted assistance in 2026.





HOW WE WORK EQUITABLY

Approach 2: Capacity Sharing and Community-Led Organisational Development

Strategic Goal: Strengthen the institutional capacities, sustainability, and leadership of grassroots feminist and community-based organisations.

CPF recognises that financial support alone cannot ensure long-term community resilience. Many community-based organisations operate with limited staffing and fragile operational systems, yet carry immense responsibilities for community mobilisation, local advocacy, and service delivery.

To facilitate genuine self-sufficiency, CPF prioritises context-responsive capacity sharing. We deliver structured training and accompaniment interventions to equip grassroots leaders with the practical skills, governance tools, and economic mechanisms required to drive sustainable change from within their own communities.



Key Results:

STRENGTHENING STAFF CAPACITIES AND SKILLS:

From August 2 to 8, 2025, **CPF resourced and guided SOFP's intensive Training of Trainers (ToT)**. This week-long programme equipped 23 Community Organisers and Cluster Representatives (19 female, 4 male) with advanced skills in CSLA formation, financial literacy, business development, disaster risk reduction (DRR), and violence against women (VAW) prevention.

The training was specifically proposed and designed to address a critical roadblock identified by SOFP: the slow expansion of community savings groups. Organisers adopted a hands-on, peer-learning approach and used SOFP's member organisation, ANAK Foodbank, as a model.

This training transformed how organisers engaged with their communities. ***"When our organisers explain the CSLA system now, the grassroots members can understand it much better,"*** SOFP Secretary-General Cherry Barnuevo shared. ***"If they can explain it clearly to their own organisations, they can easily expand."***



This training yielded immediate results in 2025: empowered and trained organisers mobilised new groups within their clusters, driving the growth of CSLA member organisations from 32 to 78.

SOFP also used this training to create its strategic plan for 2026 to 2028.



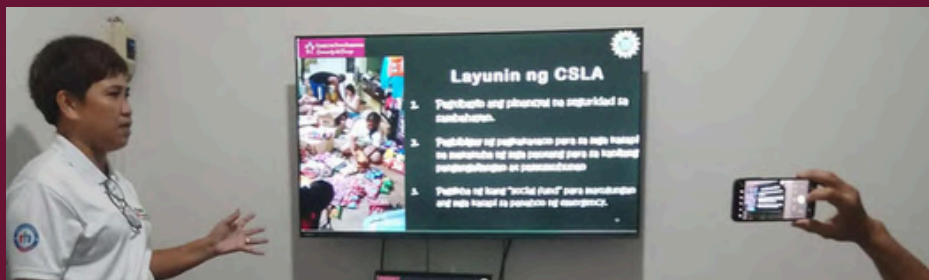


HOW WE WORK EQUITABLY

Approach 2: Capacity Sharing and Community-Led Organisational Development

SCALING OF CSLAs AND FOODBANK MODELS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PH GOVERNMENT:

Empowered by the capacity-building of a CPF-resourced Training of Trainers (ToT) and sustained by CPF's core funding, **SOFP community organisers successfully expanded their outreach capabilities**. In partnership with the Office of Senator Risa Hontiveros, these newly trained organisers **conducted one-day orientations on adapting the CSLA and Foodbank models across 14 external Sustainable Livelihood Program Associations (SLPAs) and Department of Labor and Employment Integrated Livelihood Program (DILP) organisations**.



These outreach efforts spanned seven cities in Metro Manila and reached over 200 solo parents, informal workers, senior citizens, and other SLPA and DILP beneficiaries. Because these non-member entities are government-initiated grassroots structures that often lack long-term, community-rooted sustainability, the sessions provided vital tools to economically empower diverse beneficiaries. Spearheading these initiatives demonstrates the direct impact of the ToT on the SOFP staff's capabilities, significantly strengthening the federation's credibility and capacity as grassroots advocacy leaders championing women's economic empowerment through their proven CSLA model.



CO-CREATION OF PROJECTS FOR WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT:

Bridging the gap between capacity building and local execution, **PINASAMA and CPF successfully identified priorities and possible strategies to enhance the professional skills of its community educators**. This collaborative process established plans for upcoming training modules covering early childhood material development, transparent bookkeeping, and comprehensive center documentation.

PINASAMA also envisions economic empowerment for its members—one of our priorities is to support members in establishing and growing their own savings and loans associations through training and other technical assistance deemed necessary.



OUR PARTNER COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANISATIONS

CPF has existing partners in the Philippines that have a strong track record in supporting community-led change—consulting closely with grassroots women, men, and youth on their own visions of development.

1. SOLIDARITY OF OPPRESSED FILIPINO PEOPLE (SOFP)

SOFP, formerly known as Damayan ng Maralitang Pilipinong Api (DAMPA), is a federation of over 75 grassroots organisations founded in December 1995 to fight mass demolitions in Metro Manila.

Dedicated to fostering a democratic, gender-responsive, and socially just society, the federation mobilises urban and rural communities to tackle local issues through advocacy for affordable housing, gender equality, and climate justice.

Today, SOFP is widely recognised for its self-managed Community Savings and Loans Associations (CSLAs), which enable underserved members to regularly pool savings and access vital, short-term credit.

Mapping SOFP Member Organisations:



Bulacan - 32 organisations



NCR - 15 organisations



Rizal - 13 organisations



Cavite - 1 organisation



Laguna - 1 organisation



Bicol - 2 organisations



Western Samar - 2 organisations



Eastern Samar - 2 organisations



Leyte - 9 organisations



2. PINASAMA

PINASAMA (Parent Initiative for Social Awareness Mainstreaming Advocacy) is a grassroots women's organisation in Quezon City, Philippines, dedicated to providing accessible Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) and inclusive education for urban poor children. Tracing its roots to a 1984 community-led initiative for affordable childcare, PINASAMA continues to holistically support vulnerable families today by integrating its educational services with community-based advocacy to combat domestic violence, deliver paralegal and counseling support for survivors, and mobilise youth to prevent sexual harassment in public spaces.



PINASAMA Daycare Centers in Quezon City:

BATASAN HILLS

- Kalayaan B
- Kalayaan C / Pinagpala
- Ilan Ilang
- Masaganang Bukas
- STANA

BAGONG SILANGAN

- Sitio Kumunoy
- Sumama-Ka

PAYATAS

- Urban Lupang Pangako

HOLY SPIRIT

- Doña Juana

KALIGAYAHAN

- Tawid Sapa Dos
- Wisdom Builder

COMMONWEALTH

- Little Shepherd
- Magtulungan
- Our Lady Of Miraculous Medal (OLMM)
- Our Mother of Perpetual Help (OMPH)
- San Pedro
- Sto. Niño
- Josiah Learning Center



As a newly-onboarded partner in late 2025, CPF and PINASAMA initiated the planning and co-design of community-identified projects tailored to the organisation's immediate priorities. Moving forward, our collaboration will focus on two main pillars: strengthening the capacities of their daycare teachers in early childhood education and daycare center management to sustain quality childcare, and laying the groundwork for the economic empowerment of their members through the establishment of their own community savings group and rice bank.





3. CENTRE FOR SPINAL INJURIES ADVOCACY (CESIA)

The Centre for Spinal Injuries Advocacy (CESIA) is the first partner of CPF outside of the Philippines. A community-based organisation based in rural communities in Eastern Uganda (i.e., Busoga Region), CESIA promotes the rights of women with disabilities suffering from spinal cord injuries (SCI).

A member of CPF's network of development associates, relayed an emergency request to support the organisation, which was at risk of closure due to a lack of funding partners. Upon learning about the life-saving work that CESIA does in helping women and girls with SCI suffering from pressure sores due to their immobility, CPF stepped in to determine ways to support.

CPF conducted onboarding sessions and consultation meetings to identify key priority areas for their partnership. CPF conducted onboarding sessions and consultation meetings to identify key priority areas for their partnership. CPF will support CESIA to convene their general assembly and facilitate their strategic planning scheduled for 2026. CPF and CESIA will then co-design and co-implement a rights-based and inclusive approach to support women with spinal cord injuries.

This initiative aims to empower grassroots self-help groups by establishing a social enterprise that enhances livelihood access for their members and strengthens the organisation's long-term sustainability.



FINANCIAL REPORT

See how we have supported our partners and achieved our results in 2025. Access our financial statements here (see separate document).



OUTLOOK FOR 2026

Connective Paths Foundation anticipates a transformative year in 2026 as we launch our second 4-year Strategic Plan (2026-2029).

Building on the work undertaken between 2022 and 2025, this next phase represents a deliberate transition from an emerging intermediary into a more structured, evidence-driven, and internationally connected organisation that remains intentionally small, adaptive, and relational in its approach.

Rather than pursuing rapid expansion, our focus will be on deepening the quality, sustainability, and influence of our work, remaining deeply accountable to the grassroots organisations and communities we serve.



STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2029:

This strategic plan serves not only as an organisational roadmap, but also as CPF's contribution towards reimagining more equitable, community-rooted, feminist, and locally-led approaches to development.

2026 will be a year of scaling capacity strengthening to more grassroots organisations in the Global South, while engaging early career professionals and Master's students in International Development in the Netherlands, Belgium and the UK. This will set the stage for CPF to transform inequitable aid structures and champion community-led solutions on a broader scale.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2026:

Grantmaking and Accompaniment: We will build on our trust-based partnerships and develop standardised grantmaking system and tools (e.g., Grant Guidelines, Decision-making protocols, Selection Criteria and Committee roles, etc.) in order to provide grants to more grassroots women's organisations (GWOs)—including women-led organisations of persons with disability (OPD) and lesbian, bisexual and queer (LBQ) women groups.

Programme Expansion: While our operations will remain primarily grounded in the Philippines, we will begin the gradual expansion of our support—through partnerships, learning exchanges, technical accompaniment, and small-scale grantmaking—to grassroots networks in Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Eastern Africa.

Research and Advocacy: We will expand our role in generating evidence and practitioner-led learning. Our advocacy will actively center on equitable partnerships, community-led development, and integrating feminist and gender justice perspectives into the global discourse on decolonising aid.

Financial Strategy: To overcome the limitations and volatility of traditional donor funding, we will strengthen our resource mobilisation by transitioning to a blended financing model. We aim to diversify our funding base through a mix of grants, advisory services, learning programmes, individual giving, and community philanthropy approaches.



*Learn more about the positive
impact of **community-led change**
on **breaking the cycle of poverty.***

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