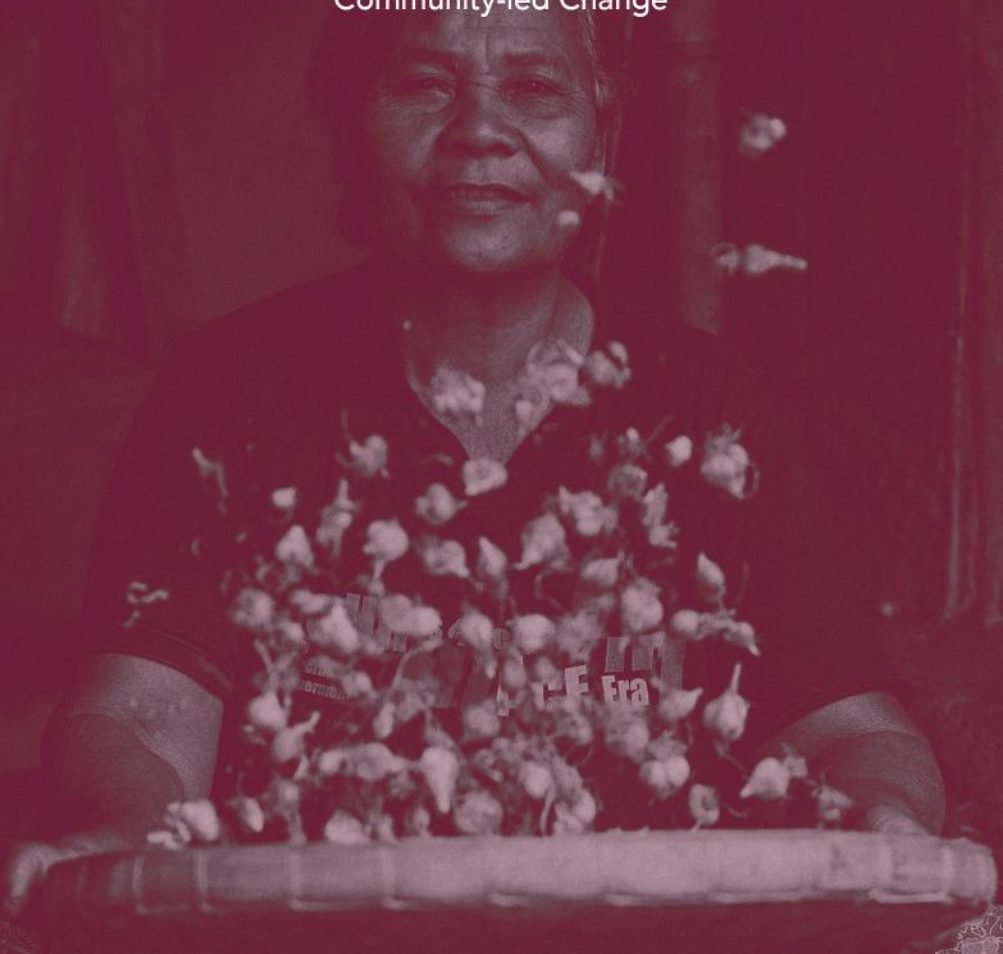




Connective Paths Foundation

Community-led Change

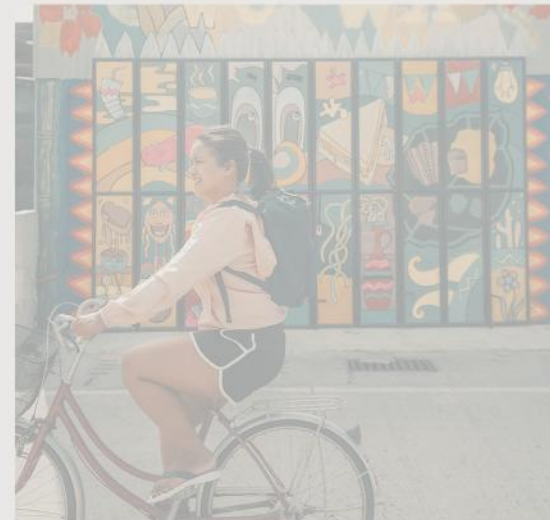


OVERVIEW

The Connective Paths Foundation (CPF) is a multi-donor resource and grant facility established in the Netherlands. CPF's mission is to facilitate the use of development funds for community-led change that increases aid effectiveness, is rooted in listening and learning, and shifts the power and decision-making to the communities in the global south, through:

- Participatory Grant-making
- Organisation Development
- Action Research and Advocacy

To provide an alternative to short-term, donor-driven and project-based funding for nongovernmental organisations (NGOs), **CPF does not just fund programs or projects—it funds the institutional development of organisations**, networks and cooperatives in order to truly co-create solutions for local gender and sustainable development priorities.



CPF aims **to provide longer-term grants and technical support to women's NGOs and community-based organisations (CBOs) spanning three to six years** in order to allow the organisations sufficient time for them to work on issues that are most relevant to their communities, strengthen their institutional capacity, and build meaningful engagement with community members, other NGOs and government actors.

VISION & OBJECTIVES

We envision an international development sector wherein NGOs, CBOs and communities from the global south have access to more equitable grant partnerships that support community-led change; and they also have greater freedom and capacity to choose their development partners.

CPF aims to partner in an equitable and ethical manner with local NGO and CBOs, with a focus on women-led and women's rights organisations, to provide funding & technical assistance in order to:

1. Strengthen institutional capacities of NGOs and CBOs in low & middle-income countries on 5 skill areas:



Project management, financial management and organisation effectiveness



Resource mobilisation and fundraising



Gender analysis, mainstreaming and inclusion strategies



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



Advocacy, local governance and community mobilising

2. Support community-led solutions to address the most important development priorities identified by and with the NGOs, CBOs and communities in the global south in the following 5 issue areas:



Women's Health, Rights, and Empowerment



Community well-being and poverty alleviation



Violence-free Households and Communities



Healthy and participatory democracy



Community philanthropy and volunteerism

WHAT WE DO: MAIN INTERVENTIONS

PARTICIPATORY GRANT MAKING

CPF funds co-created solutions to accelerate progress towards the SDGs, together with civil society in the global south. **CPF aims to transform current practices of top-down programme development** by ensuring participation of local NGOs and CBOs from the design phase, especially in identifying their priority issues.

CPF aims to model participatory grant making and invest in systems and strategies that strengthen community activism—especially at the grassroots level.

Examples of actions that the foundation aims to support include:

Sample Projects

Relevant SDGs

- Supporting the **cooperative formation of grassroots women** to provide urban poor women services (e.g., day care and ECCD centres, slum upgrade, neighbourhood services for violence against women (VAW) prevention and response, income-generation)



- Supporting **civic education and good governance** (including voter's education, human rights and participatory democracy, media literacy, countering hate online, etc.)



- Conducting research to **promote equitable and effective donor practices** that support community-led development and action research



Sample Projects

Relevant SDGs

- Adapting and evaluating globally-tested programmes to prevent gender-based violence (GBV); e.g., SASA!, IMAGE, GREAT, Stepping Stones to new contexts in an effective and ethical manner through science-based processes of changing social norms



- Designing and implementing evidence-based prevention of sexual harassment and sexual violence in public spaces



- Enabling **participation of women in government** (such as in emergency response and policy reform), and also in higher education (especially in management and STEM—science, technology, engineering, mathematics)



- Supporting the activism of **young intersectional feminists**



In order to model true participatory grant making, Connective Paths Foundation (CPF) **promotes trust-based partnerships and 'ally-ships'**, centers local expertise, and supports **grassroots innovation** for international development. This means it acknowledges and works with local experts; respects priorities of community women, men and youth; and works towards their aspirations in a way that ensures the relevance of the programmes and increases chances of community buy-in and sustainability—beyond project cycles.

ORGANISATION STRENGTHENING AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT



CPF has technical expertise in developing and executing strategies for change—policy and behaviour change—to fulfil the rights of women, men and youth. On top of grants, CPF provides institutional capacity strengthening for its grantees on various areas of project implementation and results-based management, organisation development, gender mainstreaming and evidence-based social norm change.

This will help ensure that: (1) the women’s NGOs and CBOs that receive grants have the best chance of success with their initiatives, and (2) the organisations would have gained significant institutional capacities in order to sustain their work towards their mission, by the time the partnership comes to a close.

CPF will also facilitate Listening and Learning (L&L) Workshops for all grantees every two years—in order to put into practice the foundation’s value for intellectual humility and ‘growth mindset’: the core belief that we all could always do our work better, if we put our energies into learning.





WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND LEADERSHIP ACADEMY FOR DEVELOPMENT (WELEAD)

The foundation will build a learning programme on effective global development for women managers and staff of NGOs, development consultants, researchers and other practitioners from low and middle-income countries. CPF will provide full and partial scholarships in order to increase the number of local experts with technical capacities to support national development projects, gender mainstreaming and programming in the global south.

The programme will utilise a blended approach, combining online and face-to-face sessions together with learning visits and South-South mentoring conducted by a network of global development practitioners.

ACTION RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

Through participating in global networks, CPF aims to empower more actors and influence more decision-makers and 'purse string holders' to [#ShiftThePower](#). Research and advocacy will play an integral role in our strategy to identify epic successes and failures of various initiatives and pioneers, who have embarked on making changes needed for the shifting and sharing of power between funders and grantees, and engaging southern NGOs and CBOs more equitably and ethically.

CPF aims to bridge the gaps between research and practice by testing and evaluating ways to catalyse community-led development in its own processes. Starting internally, CPF will invest in documenting its experience in participatory grantmaking to build an evidence base that could demonstrate how to catalyse community-led change. In this process, grantees will also be guided in conducting community-led monitoring and to improve how they can showcase their achievements, capacities and contributions to global development.





PARTNER NGOS AND CBOs IN THE PHILIPPINES

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.



INSTITUTE OF POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE

The Institute for Politics and Governance, Inc. (IPG), is an NGO that has worked for advancing participatory democracy, respect for human dignity, rule of law, gender responsiveness, good governance, local autonomy and transformative politics since 1994 in the Philippines.

IPG envisions a just Philippine society where ethical governance upholds the human rights of all citizens and responds to their basic needs so that all Filipinos thrive. IPG's strategic priorities involve a two-prong rights-based approach of capacitating local government units to protect and fulfil their constituents'

needs, especially the marginalized, and capacitating people's organizations to advocate for remedies to their problems. IPG also creates narratives that value people-centred and gender-responsive platforms, human rights, and promote people's agency and self-determination.

IPG was also the leading national NGO that partnered with UN Women Safe Cities programme in 2016, which successfully advocated for the Manila City law to better prevent and respond to sexual harassment and violence in public spaces.

CPF PROGRAMME: CIVIC AND VOTER'S EDUCATION (CVE)

CPF will support IPG with grants and technical support to develop and pilot a Civic and Voter's Education Training Manual and community discussion guides (in Filipino). These will be developed in close consultation with CBOs nationwide that reach and address issues of urban poor communities. The Programme will support formation of Community Education Teams (CET) to conduct civic and voters' education and the training will encompass topics such as human rights, democratic principles, voting information, good governance, civic obligations and participation.





PINASAMA

The PINASAMA (Parent Initiative for Social Awareness Mainstreaming Advocacy) is a grassroots women's organisation providing daycare and Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) services as an alternative education for children age 3-6 years old from urban poor communities. Its history traces back to 1984, when a group of community women wanted to tackle the issue of lack of access to affordable child care and education. These women leaders researched, trained and mobilized for the installation of ECCD programs in urban poor villages. These local initiatives were found to be very responsive to the needs of community women, thus it was replicated in thirteen other communities. Since 2001, PINASAMA is also mainstreaming children with disabilities in its facilities.

Recognising the intersection of domestic violence and children's development, PINASAMA also implemented community-based approaches to combat domestic violence and other forms of VAW. The organization's daycare educators were trained in gender sensitivity, paralegal training, counselling to support survivors of violence, and in facilitating awareness raising sessions on gender and VAW.

PINASAMA also partnered with UN WOMEN Safe Cities Programme and successfully formed a Safe Cities Youth Theatre Action Group (#SCYTAG), which trained disadvantaged youth in using theatre as a popular education strategy to prevent sexual harassment and violence in public spaces.

CPF PROGRAMME: URBAN POOR SUPPORT FOR COLLECTIVE ACTIONS AND LEADERSHIP OF WOMEN (UPSCALE)

CPF will increase the scale of the community initiatives of PINASAMA and support them with flexible grants, training and technical support to form a cooperative in order to provide essential services (e.g., day care centres, slum upgrades,

income-generation activities, etc.) to more urban poor women. The programme will also support understanding community mechanisms that can be strengthened for preventing and responding to VAW in communities.

SOLIDARITY OF OPPRESSED FILIPINO PEOPLE (SOFP)

Formerly Damayan ng Maralitang Pilipinong Api Inc. (DAMPA), SOFP is a national federation of people's organisations (POs) consisting of 68 member organisations that are addressing the most pressing needs of urban and rural poor communities. It was established in December 1995 in response to massive demolitions in the slums surrounding Smokey Mountain—the term coined for a large landfill once located in Tondo, Manila, which contained two million metric tons of waste. The demolitions left hundreds of urban poor families in desperate need for adequate basic services.

Throughout the decades, SOFP has served POs and provided leadership opportunities to community women, men and youth while addressing the

communities' issues and challenges brought about by poverty, gender-based violence, and climate-related disasters—including providing critical community support after the catastrophic destruction of the 2013 Typhoon Haiyan in the islands of Samar and Leyte.

In 2015, SOFP also mobilised youth advocates forming a chapter of the Safe Cities Youth Theatre Action Group (#SCYTAG), and have continued the programme even after the partnership with UN WOMEN, through mobilising funds and being awarded grants, including from the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women.



CPF PROGRAMME: GROW-STRONG PROJECT

CPF will provide long-term and flexible support to SOFP through the programme Generating Revenue and Opportunities for Women and people's organisations through Savings, Training, Rights advocacy, Organising, Networking and Governance (GROW-STRONG) in order to provide institutional capacity development to expand their existing programmes into more urban and rural communities in the Philippines. These include their successful food bank and women's savings programme, community mobilisation to prevent VAW; as well as to further develop their youth theatre group to address new challenges such as the growing HIV cases among young people.



BATANG SIDEWALK

Batang Sidewalk (which roughly translates as street children) is a nonprofit organisation and ministry that is bringing change to every street corner in South Manila and beyond. They support young people together with their families through the Sidewalk Sponsorship Program, which provides financial support for young people from poor families to finish their tertiary education. Currently, they have a total of 65 students. During the hardest times of the COVID-19 pandemic their students who have already graduated were the ones who provided for their families as they retained good jobs with regular salaries while their parents had lost theirs. The organisation believes that education for the youth is of utmost importance for the development of families and our society.



CPF PROGRAMME: WOMEN IN STEM+ EDUCATION (WISE)



CPF will provide scholarship grants to Batang Sidewalk, for young women to attend college or university courses in STEM, as well as Management, Accounting, etc.

Learn more about how to support Community-led Change and transform power imbalance in the aid sector.

**Connect with us at
<https://www.connective-paths.org/>**

Public Legal Information

Katherine Marie Belen, Co-founder and Executive Director

  : +31 6 3810 6825

 : Poortland 66, 1046 BD Amsterdam, Netherlands

 : nl.linkedin.com/company/connective-paths-foundation

Chamber of Commerce (KvK) Number: 85260509

RSIN: 863565165

CPF is applying for ANBI status. ANBI (Algemeen nut beogende instelling in Dutch) is a Public Benefit Organisation, which works for the general well-being of society. CPF commits to meet the 90% rule for ANBIs in the Netherlands, using at least 90% of its revenue on programmes supporting community-led development.