

2024 Impact Report



Photo: Meeting between Partners Asia staff and members of an indigenous Chao Lay community in Thailand (Partners Asia)

Change is more than metrics.

It lives in the values we uphold and the collective hope we fuel.
And it is best driven by the communities that seek it.



Photo: Ethnic Karen people preserve indigenous knowledge and cultural practices with the support of an organization from their community (Supplied)

What do we do?

Partners Asia believes that trusted community-based organizations and their leaders are best positioned to respond to the needs of the populations they represent. And they need **flexible, direct funding** to work effectively.

For over two decades, Partners Asia has been nurturing these values and supporting communities that drive change.

From Our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

In a world where attention is pulled in countless directions and despair and disconnection too often feels like the dominant force, we are more grateful than ever for your steadfast commitment to Partners Asia and your belief in our work. Because of you, and in partnership with local leaders, we were able to respond quickly to crises, nurture grassroots movements, and support more than 100 organizations and individuals in 2024—channeling over \$3.7 million in direct, flexible funding where it was needed most.



Patricia Curran
Executive Director

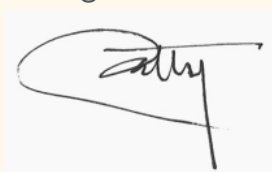
This report reflects more than impact: it shows courage, trust, and vision. It spotlights the strength of communities facing displacement, repression, and disaster. It amplifies the voices of those who continue to reimagine what is possible: youth creating spaces for healing through music and art; women and LGBTQ+ leaders reclaiming power and belonging; local responders offering shelter, food, health services, and education within days of catastrophe.

Behind every statistic in these pages is a network of relationships rooted in shared values and mutual respect. The progress we celebrate here did not come from headquarters or outside solutions. It came from communities that know what is needed, and from friends like you who chose to walk beside them.

We also recognize the broader climate in which this work continues. Even as global attention shifts and uncertainty rises, your support ensures that hope does not falter. It has never been clearer that solidarity across borders, identities, and ideologies is essential.

We couldn't do this without you. Thank you for believing in this work and in the people who lead it.

With gratitude and resolve,



Our Approach

We must ensure that those who give us hope have the support and resources to make their visions come true.

Vision

Partners Asia envisions a world where all people live with dignity.

Mission

Our mission is to support local initiatives that uphold the rights of diverse, marginalized communities in Southeast Asia and beyond.

Strategy

Our strategy is to nurture deep, equitable, and strategic partnerships between local leaders representing their communities and donors motivated by compassion and justice.

Photo: Youth video training for the teenaged children of migrant workers (Ngao Tong Films)



Meet Our Board of Directors

Partners Asia's Board members are committed to social change and have a personal connection to Southeast Asia. They are responsible for transparency, accountability, and good governance in Partners Asia's operations.



Hal Nathan
(Chairperson)



Therese Caouette



Tabitha Jordan



Andrew Kessler



Khin Ohmar



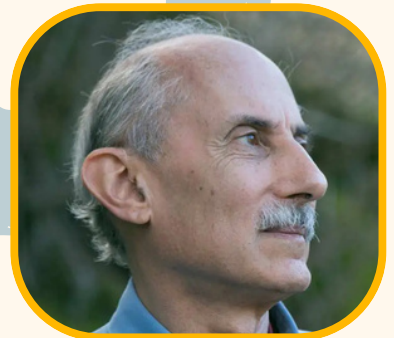
Cynthia Tin-Oo



Lily Tung



Nuntavarn Vichit-Vadakan



Jack Kornfield
(Emeritus Board Member)

"Be medicine for the sick, or a raft for those who are stranded. Being together right now, in solidarity, is what matters."

Jack Kornfield

Meet Our Team

Our team is entirely women-led, bringing diverse experience from Southeast Asia and the US.



Patricia Curran
Executive Director



C. Lisa Mitchell-Reed
Chief Financial Officer



Somphavanh (Linda) Cajski
Director of Operations



Leslie Schneider
Bookkeeper



Pornpimol Chaiboon
Grants Administrator



Amanda Mowry
Development and
Social Impact Advisor



Pawsansoe Bree
Partnership Lead

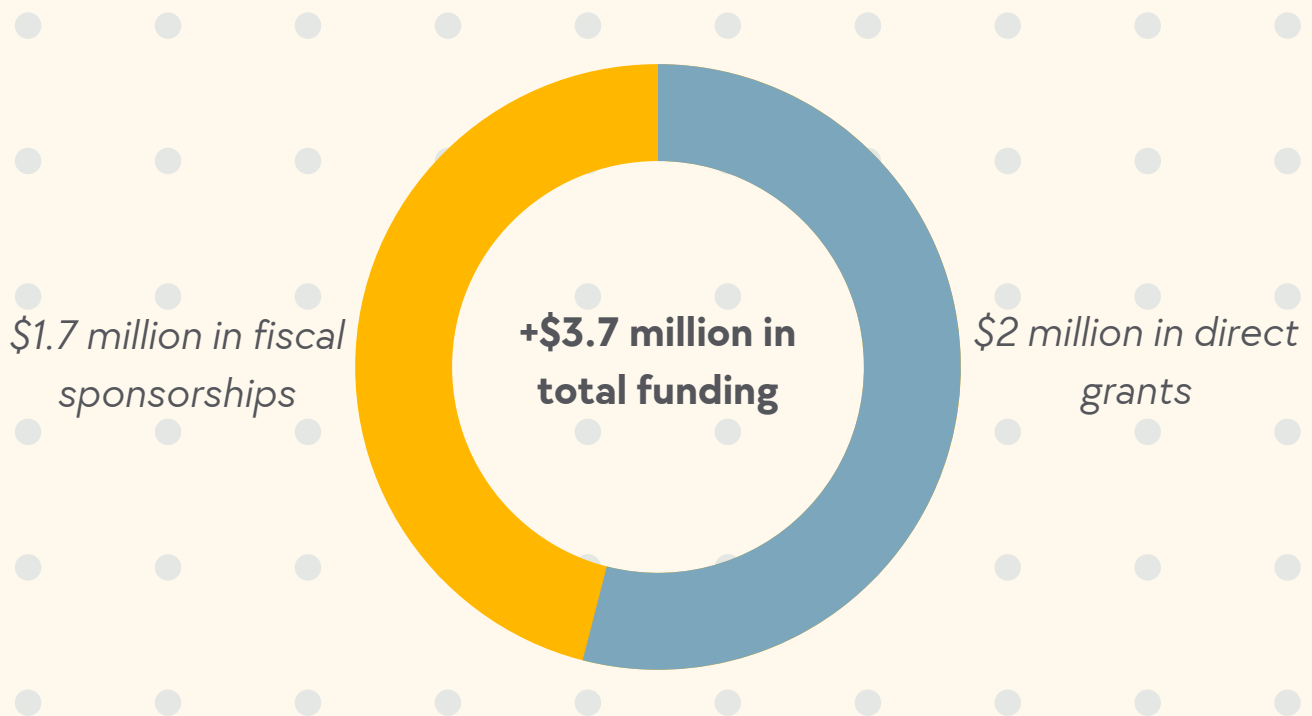


Yingcharm Khampan
Partnership Lead

Our Advisors

We are also fortunate to receive guidance from our **Advisory Council**, made up of five experts from Burma/Myanmar and Thailand. They hold leadership positions in their organizations and are highly respected in their communities, working on issues such as human rights, education, and humanitarian aid. In addition to leading impactful work on the ground, each brings a systems-level perspective: thinking beyond their sectors to connect dots across movements and shape broader strategies for change. They advise Partners Asia on strategy and how to ensure that our support aligns with local practices, priorities, and long-term aspirations.

You supported more than \$3.7 million in flexible funds for 101 organizations and individuals in 2024.



These funds allowed Partners Asia to:

Promote **community-based solutions** to systemic issues

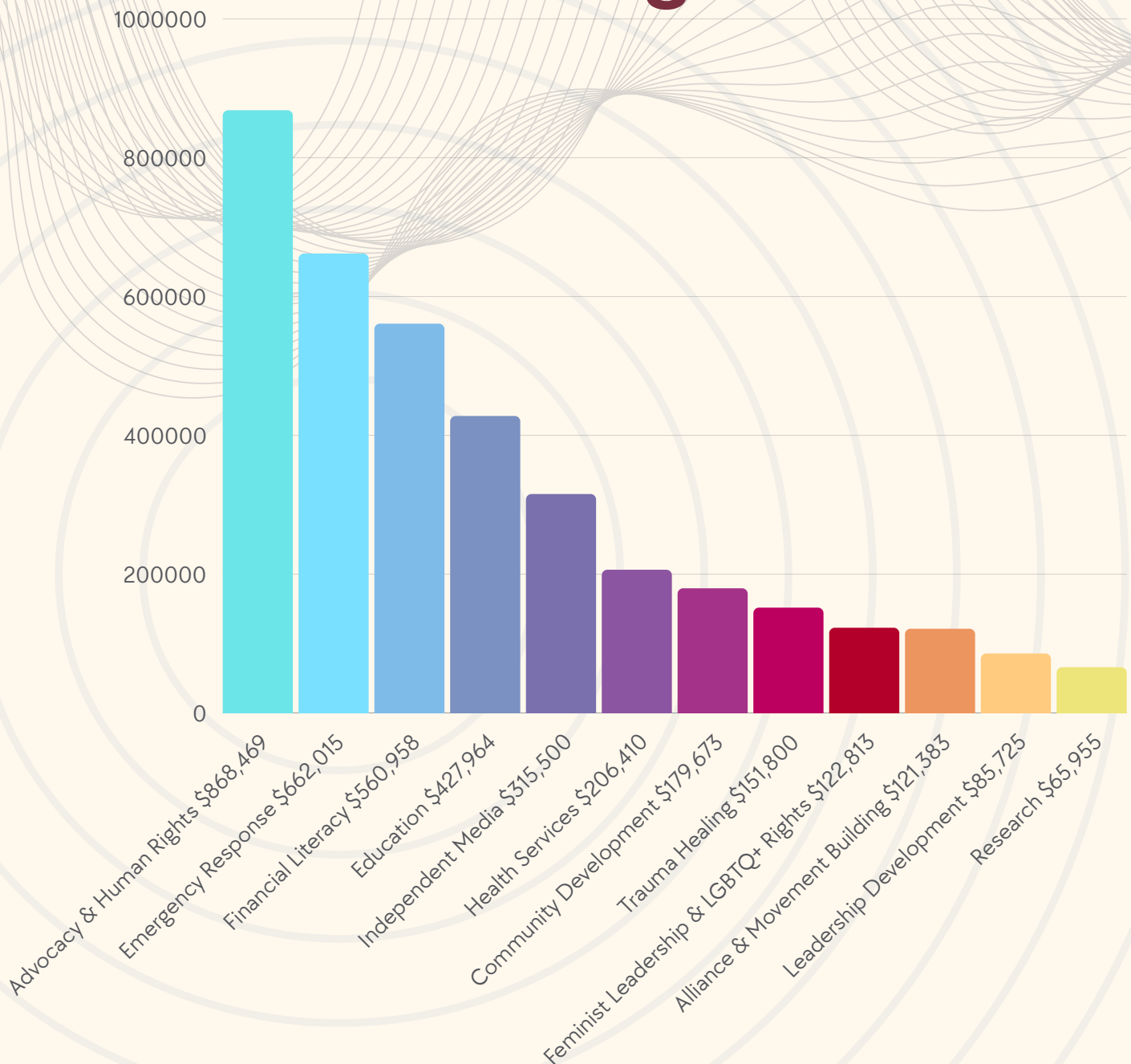
Distribute **emergency response funding** within days of a crisis

Model a **flexible and locally centered** approach to aid

Invest in **inclusive education** for marginalized youth

Advance **alliance building** around indigenous and LGBTQ+ rights

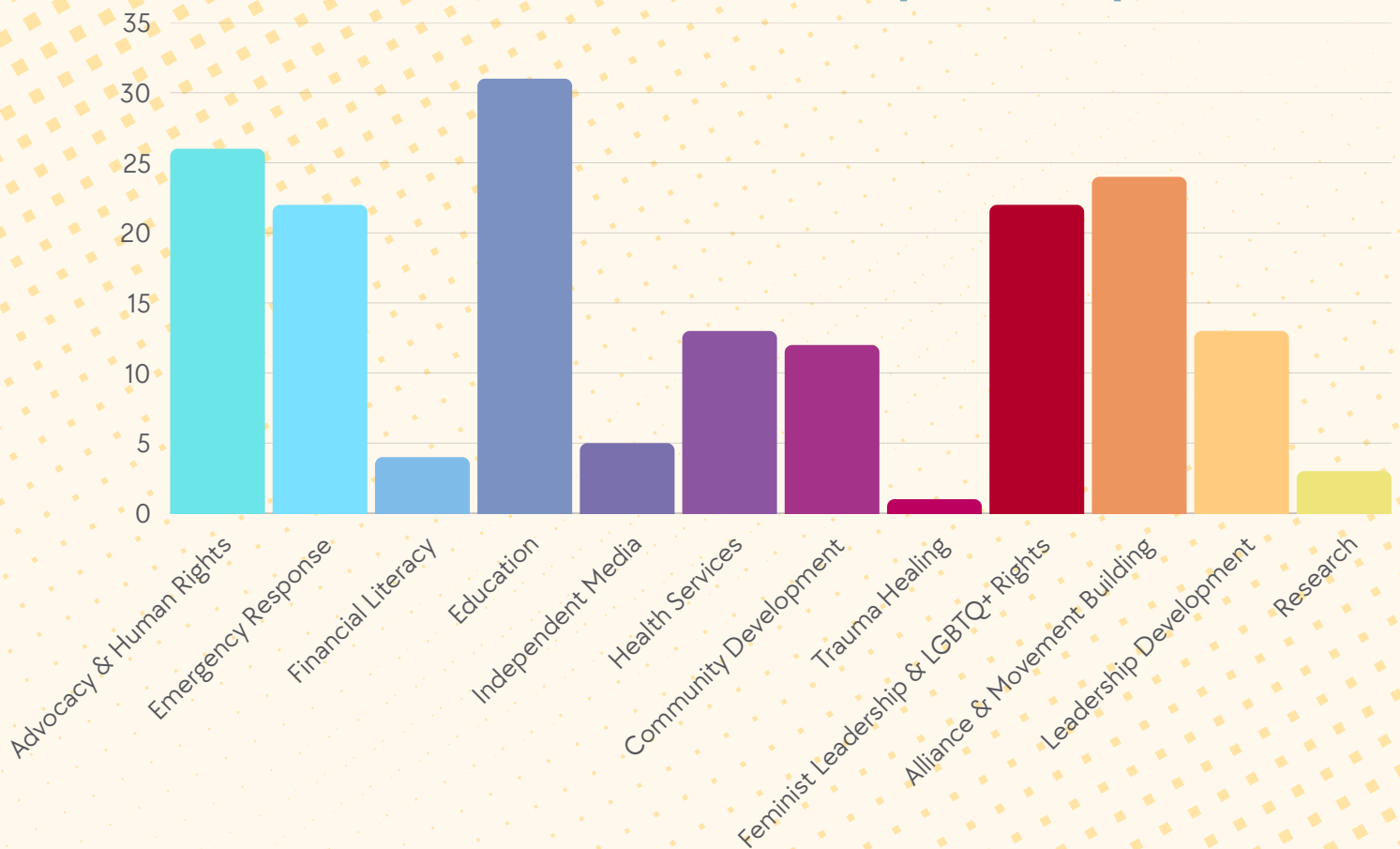
How did we distribute this funding?



Over 40% of our funding was used by partners to directly protect and promote basic human rights and respond to crises on the ground.

We transformed \$3.7 million in support into 171 grants and fiscal sponsorship funds across our partner network.

Number of Grants and Fiscal Sponsorships



Nearly 75% of our grants and fiscal sponsorships went towards education, advocacy, alliance building, emergency response, and promoting human rights—including support for feminist leadership and the rights of the LGBTQ+ community.

From Pain to Power:

Amplifying local voices



Photos: Video stills of Matcha Phorn In
(Ngao Tong Films / Partners Asia)

"From Pain to Power" is a remarkable 20-minute documentary produced by Partners Asia and the locally-led Ngao Tong Films in 2024 to illustrate the work of a key figure in Thailand's movement for LGBTQ+ rights.

Matcha Phorn In defies easy categorization: ethnic Lao, a lesbian, a feminist, and a human rights defender who is reimagining what is possible for women, children, and LGBTQ+ and indigenous people.

The documentary is part of our "In Their Own Voices" film series, which amplifies rights-based stories told by and for members of the communities we serve.

"The hardships I have been through [have] given me passion and determination since I was young to fight so this doesn't happen to other girls."

Matcha Phorn In, "From Pain to Power"

Innovative Funds: Learning and Exchange Grants

Our **Learning and Exchange Grants** are an initiative unique to Partners Asia and they invest in the strength and sustainability of local organizations. These funds of around \$1,000 are designated for activities that traditional donors often overlook: organizational development, skills-building workshops with local experts, and networking opportunities with likeminded groups.

Photo: Youth video training (Ngao Tong Films)

"Our Learning Grant was a chance to get our passion back and rebuild our team's power."

Ethnic community development organization

What do our partners say?

"We give youth space to share their feelings and past experiences. We use music and art therapy to relieve stress and anxiety. With the Learning Grant, Partners Asia was our first supporter."

Mental health support group

Since 2022, we have given **58 Learning and Exchange Grants** to local organizations, who determine how they are used.

Some of these funds were used by our partners in 2024 for:

✿ Training in **basic counseling skills** to provide psychosocial support for displaced persons

✿ Training in assessing and supporting the **needs of children with disabilities** from ethnic minority communities

✿ Team-building and **trauma healing** activities within an organization affected by conflict, carried out by a local specialist they selected

Emergency Funding: Flood Relief

Trust, responsiveness, and networks rooted in community



In September 2024, the worst flood in decades hit northern Thailand. A youth-led organization requested \$5,000 from Partners Asia to help some 60 children of migrant workers from Burma/Myanmar who had lost their school supplies in the disaster and could not afford to replace them.

They worked with parents and allocated the funds to buy uniforms, shoes, backpacks, and stationery so that the children could return to school. The need was identified, funded, and met within days.



Photos, from top: Post-flood landscape in northern Thailand; affected children line up for lunch at a community event; youth volunteers plan funding distribution (Supplied)

"For many children, education is their only hope for breaking the cycle of poverty and displacement. But without necessary school supplies and support, they are at risk of being left behind. With this grant, they were able to continue their education with dignity and without interruption."

Local youth leader

2024 Reflections

Emergency Support or Community Building?

We are committed to doing both.



THE MOST PRESSING NEED IS HUMANITARIAN AID

People fleeing war and natural disasters need immediate access to food, shelter, and healthcare to survive. **The need for real-time emergency support remains huge.**



LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDE CRITICAL SERVICES

Established local networks have expertise, access to, and the trust of communities because they have been built by and for the populations they serve. **We encourage donors to listen to them and allow them to determine their own priorities.**



RESOURCING LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS IN A CRISIS PROVIDES RELIEF AND STRENGTHENS FUTURE RESPONSIVENESS

It means more effective aid distribution in emergencies, and greater resilience on the ground in the years to come. **We will continue to do our best to support our partners' short- and long-term needs.**



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