



# GLOBAL FAMILY VILLAGE

**FAMILY & COMMUNITY FOR  
ORPHANED & ABANDONED CHILDREN**

*Building Caring Communities*



## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE – VALUES INTRODUCTION

***Global Family Village (GFV) helps improve the lives and outcomes for orphaned and abandoned children by creating community based family-style group homes in partnership with the local communities.***

Planting the seeds of shared worth and responsibility in family homes, nurtures children to grow up to become good citizens. Families are the basic building blocks of every successful community. When a nation provides the means for all of its communities to nurture their families, then the entire society will harvest the fruit of a healthy collaborative citizenry. ***When the State supports community efforts to assist its weakest members- (children without families) by supporting the creation of community sponsored family-style group homes, then both the community and the nation will benefit.*** Those children who would have been lost to the country's productive capacity, will instead have the opportunity to grow, to have a true home, a true membership in that community and the chance to become productive citizens adding to the nation's riches with their own contributions of human capital in adulthood. The community that creates a true home for those children benefits from their contributions as well as from the empowerment that comes from the exercise of communal leadership, harmony and unity. And the nation too, benefits from such communities because they function cooperatively for the general good and without harm or loss of potential of any members.

As expressed in the CRC, it is the universal entitlement of all children to grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding; and it is society's duty to provide the special protection and assistance needed to ensure alternative care of the same quality for those children deprived of it. Our goals are to help communities bring the CRC standards to realization: alleviating suffering, promoting holistic child development and providing an enabling, caring environment in which disenfranchised children can thrive.<sup>1</sup>

The Global Family Village (GFV) Model of community integrated, family-style orphan care respects and celebrates the centrality of a community's self-determination, natural leadership, and authentic character. The GFV Model asserts these core values in the structure of its engagement, partnering, implementing, and exiting phases and strategies.

## PERSPECTIVE

GFV perceives itself as the catalyst and initiator of a process that is driven by the community and government bodies jointly at their mutual instigation. As the primary stakeholders in an on-going relationship, the community (as represented by a committee of it's own choosing) partners with the government to establish a community 'owned' family-style group home for orphans according to the GFV Model.

GFV further assists the community in setting up and establishing good practices of caregiver-mother training, early childhood education and elder involvement in all aspects of the center, school, and other related quality of life projects as identified by the community and agreed to by stakeholders.

GFV additionally functions, insofar as it is requested by the community, in a partnership introduction and relationship building role with pertinent Nepali NGO's and programs to further the agreed upon pro-community needs and aims. In all this, GFV's working goal is to transfer knowledge and capacity to the local community in such a way as to make GFV's presence and participation obsolete in 5-7 years. From the outset of the relationship with the community, GFV will assist, advise and nurture the realization of income-generating projects that will enhance community life and well being as they become sources of sustainable financial support for the GFV Family & Community Center (the 'Center'). GFV's financial support will gradually diminish as the community and government assume fiscal and legal responsibility for the children and the Center. GFV will continue to be available to consult on an agreed upon basis with the community and the Center regarding program, training, re-training, and new developments.

Every community is unique, just as is every child. The GFV Model is responsive to the conditions, needs, assets, concerns and character of each community. The model does not prescribe how a community should resolve its concerns and move forward, nor what a particular child should become in life. The GFV Model describes what the needs of healthy, optimal development and functioning are for any child and family. **GFV promotes and enables opportunities for the community as a whole, while encouraging the community to identify its own strengths and needs around the universal issues of healthy child development and sound education.**

## CURRENT NEED / SITUATION

There are over 974,000 orphaned or abandoned children in Nepal.<sup>1</sup> There are over 454 registered orphanages or “children’s homes” in Nepal, with an estimation of 200 more unregistered orphanages. 44% of those observed were rated ‘Unsatisfactory’.<sup>2</sup>

Caregivers in these substandard orphanages are most often uneducated, disenfranchised women. Typically, caregivers live in the orphanage and are expected to work 24 hours a day, seven days a week for pay that is considerably lower than a standard living wage. **These caregivers, who play the most critical role for these vulnerable children’s development and healing, are not trained or empowered themselves.**<sup>3</sup> A significant percentage of caregivers have poor self esteem and, like the children, many have experienced the complex trauma of multiple losses, discrimination, low status and a lack of social-emotional support. They cannot effectively empower children and instill the confidence of self worth until they themselves feel worthy and empowered. They cannot effectively guide and mold a child’s developing character if they themselves feel insignificant.

Due to a lack of stimulation and human interaction, many of the youngest children suffer from failure-to-thrive syndrome, compromising their future development or worse, leading to the high infant mortality rate. Many who survive this period develop severe attachment deficiencies, and are developmentally delayed, or permanently physically and intellectually compromised. At all ages they weigh less and are shorter than children living in family-centered orphanages.<sup>4</sup> In general, they suffer from more health problems and have a higher morbidity rate, relative to the general population.

Children living in institutional settings have significantly lower IQ’s than any other group, proving that family settings are critical for holistic development<sup>5</sup>

**The GFV Model, with its emphasis on community participation and support, will directly contribute to achieving four UN Millennium Development Goals by 2015 as follows:**

- **Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate of children under five:**

Every year, sixty thousand children die before they reach their 5th birthday in Nepal. The underlying factors are: (1) lack of health care services, (2) lack of parental care to the orphans.<sup>6</sup>

- **Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling:**

Adult literacy is 48.66% Female illiteracy is 34.9% (Female literacy outside the Kathmandu Valley is well under 10%). Enrollment in primary school is 87%; however 21% dropout in grade one and 30% repeat grade one. The ratio of girls attending school is much lower than boys throughout all sections of the country and increasingly with age.<sup>7</sup>

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- **Gender Equality:**

Discrimination of girls is rampant in every sector of society including education, economy, health care, work wage, rights of inheritance, land rights, reproductive freedom and nutritional status among other things.

- **Reduce those suffering from hunger & poverty by half:**

31% of Nepali people are living under the absolute poverty line.<sup>8</sup> Over 75% of Nepali people experience food insufficiency for some part of each year.

## OBJECTIVES

**Our primary objectives are to:**

- Create community based family-style group homes for children ***in partnership with*** communities and other stakeholders;
- Provide support for medical, dental and nutritional access within the community;
- Provide support for educational improvements within the community, including vocational education;
- Provide assistance with organizing income generating activities to benefit the quality of life for the community as a whole; and
- Provide assistance with organizing income-generating activities that add to the community's welfare and ability to contribute support to its family-style orphan care group home.

## INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

The children living at a GFV Family & Community Center will be:

- Healthy (not just absence of disease);
- Physically fit;
- Emotionally strong and balanced;
- Hopeful about their futures;
- Strong and healthy cultural identities;
- Aware of their rights and the rights of others;
- Possess skills for living in peaceful co-existence;
- Literate and educated;
- Socially secure and connected with "1 or 2 mothers", "a grandparent", "brothers and sisters";
- Socially connected to and identified with the community/village; and
- Contributing positively to "the family", community and society at large.

Further, the physical buildings associated with GFV Family & Community Center will have:

- Community support and integration;
- Contribute to demonstrating practical, ecologically sound and sustainable building and operating practices (including energy, water and waste systems); and
- Demonstrate culturally appropriate, replicable and attainable practices and programs.

## **SUMMARY STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

GFV improves the fabric of the entire society, by positive interaction with each small community or neighborhood that we interact with. The greatest good we can do is to empower, educate and disseminate our knowledge and abilities as thoroughly and widely as possible, building capacity in the community. One significant aspect of that collaboration is practicing and promoting good governance with all partners and associated organizations and parties with whom we interact. Compassion and integrity are values fundamental to our work. GFV is a convener of concerned parties. Our role is to initiate, convene and then serve as a resource and networking option for the orphans' successful integration into the community. To that end we may be called upon to assist the community in its exploration of possible income generating activities to improve the overall welfare of the community and help it support the Center. A community is the ultimate owner of its children and its culture. GFV acknowledges and honors that relationship in our objective to gradually recede into the background as the community takes increasingly definitive leadership of the Center and responsibility for the orphans who shall become a permanent part of their community. While GFV will remain accessible to the stakeholders, we believe the Center could be well established in five-seven years, or even considerably less time, depending on the capacity of the particular community. Our aim is to promote and nurture resources, knowledge and capacity so that the community can successfully sustain its Center with the talents, knowledge and experience gained through the course of the GFV project relationship.

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<sup>1</sup> *Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) United Nations, General Assembly, Article 20, Clause 1, Clause 2, Preamble, 1990.*

<sup>2</sup> *Central Child Welfare Board (CCWB), Nepal 2008*

<sup>3</sup> *New ERA Study Team, Study of Children in Children's Homes in Nepal, 7/05*

<sup>4</sup> *Thesis Study, Anjana Rajbhanri, 9/06*

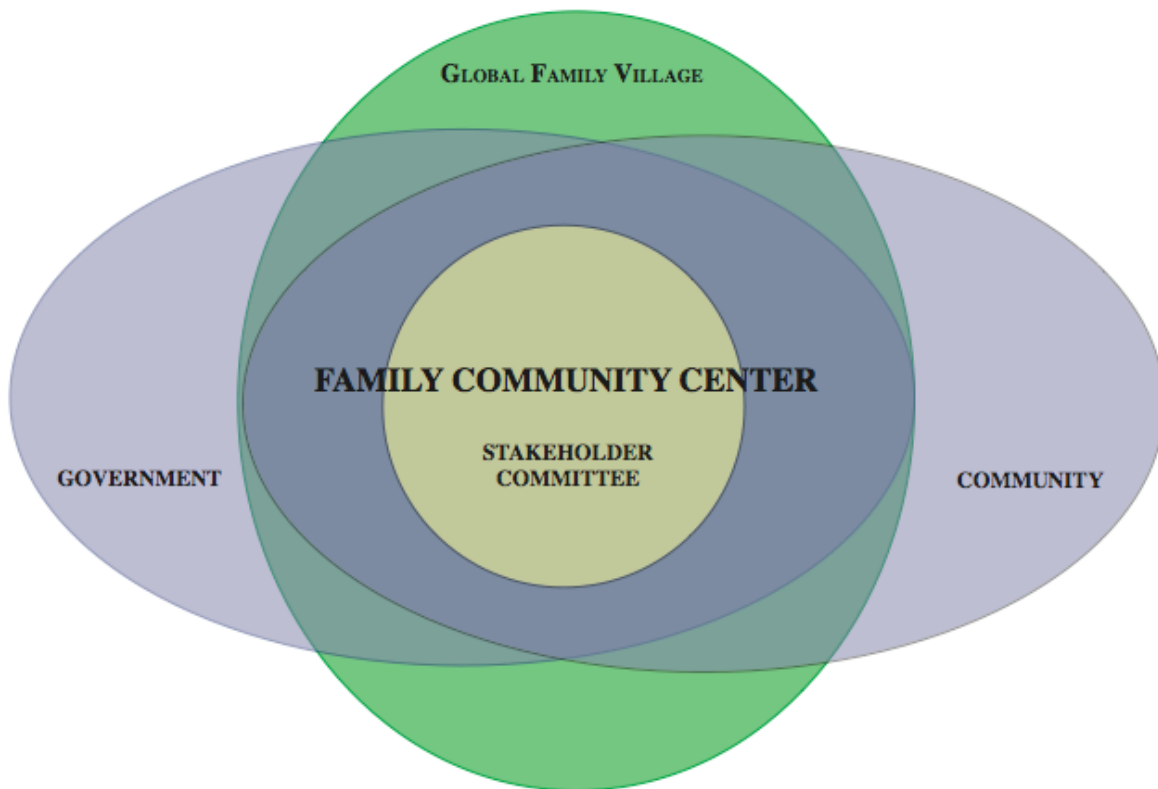
<sup>5</sup> *Benedict Carey, Orphanages Stunt Mental Growth, 12/07*

<sup>6,7</sup> *UNICEF, Central Bureau of Statistics, CWIN National Recourse Centre*

<sup>8</sup> *National Planning Commission Report- 2006*

# GLOBAL FAMILY VILLAGE

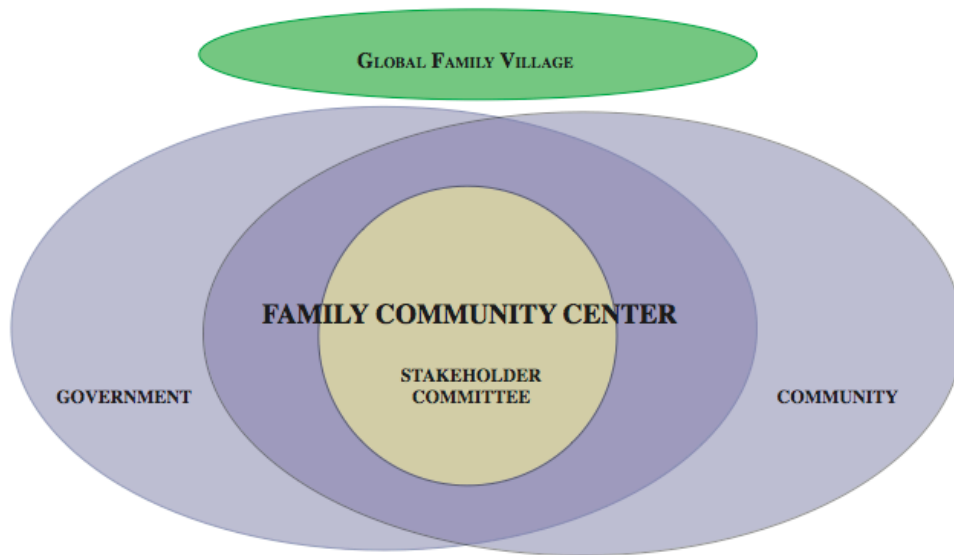
## Building Caring Communities – Beginning Phase



Global Family Village-Nepal initially partners with the community and the government to create the Family Community Center

# GLOBAL FAMILY VILLAGE

## Building Caring Communities – Ending Phase



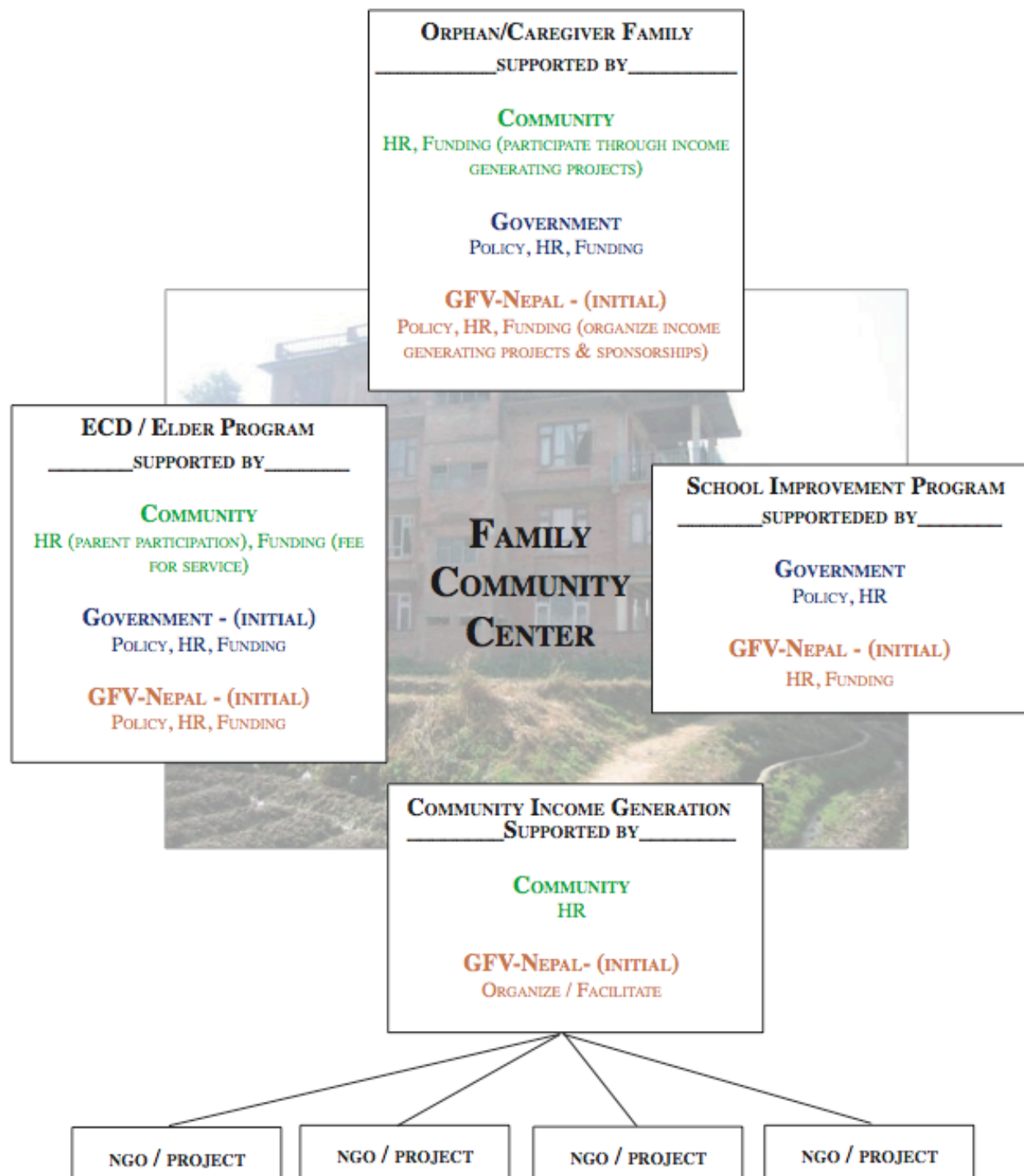
### BUILDING CARING COMMUNITIES - ENDING PHASE

Projected Family and Community Center fiscal autonomy to be established in approximately 5-7 years. GFV's objective is to gradually recede as the community takes increasing leadership. GFV will remain accessible as a consultative resource to the community.



# GLOBAL FAMILY VILLAGE MODEL - BUILDING CARING COMMUNITIES

## FUNDING AND SUPPORT SOURCES (HUMAN RESOURCES, POLICY, FUNDING)





GLOBAL FAMILY VILLAGE

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