



2022 Impact Report

Radical Grandma Collective



**RAD
GRAM**

Radical Grandma Collective is an international and intergenerational solidarity effort supporting environmental justice activists in Northeast Thailand.



Staff

Becky Goncharoff, Executive Director
Sam Ryals, Director of Operations
Bampen Chaiyarak, Community Impact Coordinator

Board of Directors

Mariko Powers, Board President
Katie Mathieson, Board Treasurer
Sam Usavage, Board Secretary
Zoe Swartz
Praveena Fernes
Larissa Gaias
Pangrum Boonbaichaiyapruck
Sulakshana Lamubol
Emily Anderson

Partners

Campaign for Public Policy on Mineral Resources (PPM)
Khon Rak Baan Kerd (KRBK; People Who Love Their Hometown)
Khao Lao Yai - Pha Chandai Community Forest Conservation Group
Protection International
Numgunde





Letter from the Executive Director

This year marked incredible learning and growth for Radical Grandma Collective (RadGram) and will be remembered as our critical transition period from being a volunteer project to a non-profit organization. Through the hard work of our dedicated volunteers-turned-board-members and paid staff, we laid the foundation for our solidarity work to have institutional staying power as a registered nonprofit. RadGram did not make this decision lightly. We acknowledge the nonprofit sector's inability to radically change economic inequality and environmental degradation. However, we recognize that formally registering our organization will enable us to more sustainably achieve our mission. I'm incredibly proud to be a part of a team that continues to work in meaningful ways amidst ambiguous, challenging circumstances.

Despite this bold change, RadGram's goal is still to walk alongside and support the ongoing movement work driven by grassroots communities struggling for environmental justice in Thailand.

One of the core reasons we decided to legally incorporate as a non-profit was to access larger funding opportunities and channel those resources into critical movement work in Thailand. Those organizing on the ground are often disconnected from funding opportunities because applications frequently require submissions in English and funding is most readily available to programs operating in the Global North or to US/EU registered organizations. Our partners organizing on the ground are simply too busy fighting for justice to search and apply for grants in another language. We're committed to closing this gap within the movement.

In May 2022, our network recognized that civic space and the freedom of association in Thailand was increasingly under threat. RadGram crowdfunded from our network and collaborated in urgent grant writing requests to support grassroots human rights defenders' ability to organize and attend demonstrations in support of democracy, the freedom of association, and human rights in Thailand. We recognize that environmental justice cannot be realized without democratic rule.



In December 2022, we secured two grants through the Environmental Defenders Collaborative (EDC) and Global Greengrants Fund to support the Campaign For Public Policy On Mineral Resources (PPM) and Khon Rak Ban Kerd (KRBK). RadGram is the fiscal sponsor of these two local organizations and regranted 100% of the EDC funds in 2023. We are immensely grateful for how these donors and our network help us support grassroots movements in Thailand and look forward to expanding this work in the coming years.

This year RadGram also began funding Care Income payments for four women human rights defenders (WHRDs) in three mine-affected communities through partnerships with Campaign For Public Policy On Mineral Resources (PPM) and Protection International (PI). We are currently providing support to leaders from gold-mine-affected communities in Loei, a community fighting a limestone quarry in Dong Mafai, Nong Bua Lamphu; and communities resisting the construction of a coal mine in Ban Haeng, Lampang. This monthly stipend made directly to WHRDs is modeled after the [Global Women's Strike Care Income Campaign](#) and allows WHRDs to continue their environmental justice campaigns without sacrificing their livelihoods.

We also continued our original project of marketing weaving products made by WHRDs in gold-mine-affected communities in Loei. Product sales online and in person allow us to amplify the stories of our partners and support their economic restoration efforts. We are grateful to our dedicated volunteers who sell these products and share the stories of our partner communities at various markets around the world.

Since beginning as a volunteer project in 2016, RadGram has evolved and shifted many times over. However, we have never grown as much as we did in 2022. We are immensely grateful for the enduring effort of our allies and supporters — your collaboration has helped us grow our impact and act in solidarity with our friends in Thailand. When people ask me how RadGram is doing, I've come to tell them that we've landed where I dreamed we'd be at the end of three years in just one. With your partnership, we will continue to expand our impact and do our part to restore the world and the people in it.

In solidarity,
Becky Goncharoff
RadGram Executive Director



Letter from the Board President

What a year! We could not be more excited to share Radical Grandma Collective's first annual Impact Report as a registered nonprofit. It's been an incredible time of momentum for us and for civic movements in Thailand.

2022 was a year of growth and change for RadGram. At our 2021 organizational retreat, our small team envisioned how RadGram could expand its impact to provide more support to the mining resistance movement in Loei, Thailand as well as expand our reach to other Isaan communities fighting for their rights in the face of extractive industry. We left the retreat feeling invigorated by this work but also knew that we couldn't do it by ourselves.

In 2022, we committed to recruiting new volunteers to join our team to fill in the gaps in our skill set so that together we could accomplish the growth that we dreamed. We began working with the Center for Nonprofit Law to form our own registered nonprofit organization and preparing to leave the administrative nest of our fiscal sponsor and

friends at the Educational Network for Global and Grassroots Exchange (ENGAGE) after nearly 6 years. We so appreciate the longstanding support of ENGAGE and its members, many of whom showed up to purchase scarves and donate during the launch and early years of RadGram, and who continued to champion our cause as we transitioned into a nonprofit. We are excited to announce that we gained our 501(c)3 status in March of 2023.

With their legal guidance, we formed a board of directors composed of members of our original team and were able to bring Becky Goncharoff and Sam Ryals on as our first paid staff members! As a board and staff, we welcomed new volunteers who brought a fresh wave of excitement, energy, and skill that let us accelerate our work forward. This new organizational structure has had an astoundingly positive impact on our team's capacity and consistency. Looking back, we are so impressed by what our volunteers accomplished and can't wait to see what we can achieve together in the years to come!

With Radgram's nonprofit status, we are now able to serve as a fiscal sponsor for local partner organizations including the Campaign for Public Policy on Mineral Resources (PPM) and KRBK/People Who Love Their Hometown. We received grants from the Environmental Defenders Collaborative and Global Greengrants in support of human rights organizing, the defense of democracy, and environmental justice, which we re-granted in their entirety to these local partner organizations working on the frontlines of social movements in Thailand.

We also reoriented our mission — which previously focused on the story of our collaboration with KRBK — to more broadly encompass our work in solidarity with a growing number of mine-affected communities. Our updated vision is to support community-led restoration in Thailand in the most holistic sense of the term: by healing the economic, environmental, and social ties frayed by ecological degradation and social injustice.

As we look to the future, Radical Grandma Collective will look to mobilize additional resources for human rights defenders, strengthen our capacity-building support for grassroots partners, and expand our educational programs. We can't thank you enough for embarking on this journey with us. We make the path by walking, but it's easier when grandma shows you the way.

With gratitude,
Mariko Powers
RadGram Board President



Community Impact

Voices from Our Partners

“The Radical Grandma Collective supports the community in a variety of ways. They assist in the sale of fabrics woven by the grandmothers to other countries, using the proceeds to support the group's efforts against mining. They also help the grandmothers earn income through weaving, raise awareness about mining's impact, and established a weaving center for the group's education on weaving and mining issues. Additionally, they aid in raising funds for the community's grassroots restoration plan, bringing international students to learn from the community, empower the Collective to combat mining, and serve as a model group that truly helps the community.

The community group of village protectors from six villages surrounding the gold mine in Khao Luang, Wang Saphung district, Loei province, [Khon Rak Ban Kerd (KRBK)] have been fighting against the mine since 2006. In their fight against the mine, KRBK has faced many obstacles from government agencies and the company who hold financial and state power. We have been sued by [the mining company and the state] in more than 20 civil and criminal cases, costing hundreds of millions of baht in damages. The mine has created many negative impacts on the surrounding communities, including chemical contamination in the water and the soil, as well as health concerns.



KRBK joined forces with a group of grandmothers who weave fabric in order to fundraise for the fight against the mine. Radical Grandma Collective also amplifies the fight against the mine by selling scarves, which supports the movement and the weavers' families. [RadGram] supports through inviting students to come and learn about the community and by sharing stories of the struggle and the impacts of the mine with the outside world.

After the villagers succeeded in closing down the mine, the next step was to start the process of restoration. However, the government agencies involved showed little interest and left the responsibility to the villagers living around the mine.

Therefore, KRBK, along with academics and lawyers, collaborated to develop a community restoration plan. RadGram recognized the importance and dedication of KRBK in promoting the successful restoration of the community, and provided funding to support them.

KRBK has already seen the importance of working together and their success in the fight against the mine, which inspires them to continue with their efforts to restore the community."

*– Rotjana Kongsæn
WRHD from KRBK*

"It feels great to spread the word about RadGram at markets. Sometimes people already know about us or get immediately invested in our cause and donate or purchase on the spot. I am confident that our reach is extending and that our awesome team of volunteers is making an impact in the support of our partner communities."

***– Sam Usavage
Board Member***





"The ability to come and stay in the villages for several weeks took everything I had spent so much time studying, and made it real. RadGram made engaged learning for my research and reporting possible. The experience of staying with different families, visiting the mining sites, and learning the village culture are things I'll never forget."

**– Megan Curling,
Student Researcher from Elon
University**



Social Enterprise

“RadGram was founded with a simple social enterprise goal: to sell woven goods from the village of Na Nong Bong in the US to send back the profits in support of KRBK. This model allows us to amplify the voices of KRBK by physically connecting folks in the US with handmade expressions of Na Nong Bong’s culture, and utilizing this as a vessel to educate the US about the impacts of extractive industries like mining on communities like NNB. And of course, we pay the weavers in NNB upfront for their goods, ensuring funding for KRBK independent of our sales success in the US. We remove risk for the village; the grandmas weave styles they enjoy weaving, and earn funding for KRBK upfront, in return.

In 2022, the Social Enterprise Committee continued legacy efforts and also began expansion (thanks to the influx of amazing volunteers on our team!).





"I work with RadGram because I respect, support, and am in awe of the amazing organizing work that the grandmas are doing. Hosting markets is one small way that I can do my part to support their fight."

*- Jenn Pollock
RadGram Volunteer*

With our expanding team structure, we:

- Launched new products and decided to introduce napkins, a laptop case, and a wristlet.
- Piloted running ads on Facebook and Instagram with the goal of increasing online sales.
- Hosted eight markets with the help of our amazing volunteers. Locations in 2022 included Bangkok, Fort Collins CO, Louisville KY, Brooklyn NY, Oakland CA, Fairfax, CA, and Hillsboro OR. We sold RadGram goods, collected donations, and engaged with hundreds of folks about our mission.

Overall, our 2022 Social Enterprise team built capacity with an expanded volunteer team, meaning that we reached new audiences with our new methods of communication. A special thanks to those who volunteer their time with our Committee! Please reach out if you'd like to host a market or pop-up in your city."

*- Sam Usavage
Board Member*

Impact by the Numbers

22

Weavers
in the collective

2

Grants
Totaling \$65,000

8

Markets
(With the help of 12+
volunteers)

20

Volunteers

2

Community
Presentations

4

WHRDS
in three communities
received 200,000 THB total

636,760 THB
(\$18,625 USD)
Directed to communities

Including care income, homestays,
donations, and emergency grant
funds.



Acknowledgments

RadGram has grown a lot since it began, and that is due to the many people and institutions who have contributed time and money to support our work. Your generous gifts have helped us build our team, expand our mission, and support communities. We can't thank you enough!

We want to say a special thanks to fantastic volunteers, including Alexandra Dalferro, Beth Eanelli, Cait Goss, Dre Liuliu, Emily Anderson, Gianna Fazioli, Greg Francois, Komal Kaur, Megan Curling, Pangrum Boonbaichaiyapruck, Sulakshana Lamubol, Taylor Dykes, Sofia Antonelli, and **many** others.

Interested in supporting RadGram's work?

- Make a secure donation:
<https://www.radicalgrandmacollective.com/donate>
- Get involved in our social enterprise program by hosting a holiday market table; purchasing from our site; or referring bulk orders and wholesale customers to contact@radicalgrandmacollective.com
- Volunteer with one our many ongoing projects:
<https://www.radicalgrandmacollective.com/volunteer>





To learn more about RadGram, please visit our website (www.radicalgrandmacollective.com) or scan the QR code.



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- Page 4 - Katie Mathieson
- Page 5 - Pichit Chaiyasit
- Page 6 - Radical Grandma Collective
- Page 7 - The Cloud
- Page 8 - The Cloud
- Page 9 - Top: Roengrit Kongmuang; Right: Radical Grandma Collective Bottom: Radical Grandma Collective
- Page 10 - Right: Radical Grandma Collective; Bottom: Radical Grandma Collective
- Page 11 - Greg Francios, volunteer
- Page 12 - Radical Grandma Collective
- Page 13 - Roengrit Kongmuang
- Page 14- Luke Duggleby