



OAK
FOUNDATION
Annual Report
2019



Our mission

Oak Foundation commits its resources to address issues of global, social and environmental concern, particularly those that have a major impact on the lives of the disadvantaged.

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Our history



Since its establishment, Oak Foundation has made more than 5,000 grants to not-for-profit organisations around the world.

The resources of Oak Foundation originated from an interest in the Duty Free Shoppers business which Alan Parker helped to build.

Today, the Foundation comprises a group of philanthropic organisations based in various countries around the world.

Oak Foundation was formally established in 1983. Early grants were made in Denmark to organisations supporting single mothers and torture victims and in Zimbabwe to groups supporting vulnerable children and families, primarily at community levels. Grants continued to be made annually in several countries until a new phase began in the early 1990s, when annual grant-making increased and staff were hired to run substantive programmes.

Since then Oak has been growing steadily and today we have 11 programmes, through which we have made more than 5,000 grants to organisations around the world.

Our six main programmes are: Environment, Housing and Homelessness, International Human Rights, Issues Affecting Women, Prevent Child Sexual Abuse and Learning Differences. In addition, our Trustees support causes that fall outside the remits of the main programmes through the Special Interest Programme. There are also four national programmes: Brazil, Oak Foundation Denmark, India and Zimbabwe.

Oak Foundation has its main administrative office in Geneva, Switzerland and a presence in five other countries: Denmark, India, the United Kingdom, the United States and Zimbabwe.

You can find out more about Oak Foundation on our website: www.oakfnd.org.

Letter from the Trustees

2019 was another busy year for Oak Foundation, during which we provided 377 programme and special initiative grants to 342 organisations in 37 countries. The pages of this report give a colourful account of some of our grant-making around the world.

By sharing stories about the work being carried out by our partners, we hope to raise awareness of their efforts to contribute to a better and fairer world. You can read about some of their impressive work in the following pages.

With support from our Environment Programme, Oceana is working **to return abundance to the world's oceans**. The organisation has been remarkably successful in expanding marine protective areas, stopping overfishing and countering the damage done by aquaculture. "If we give the ocean a chance, it will come back, it will sustain us."

We highlight the efforts of the partners of our International Human Rights Programme, who **have united to stop indefinite detention in the UK**. Together they managed to secure victories in the judicial system and raise public awareness about this problematic issue. In addition, our partners provide medical assistance to hundreds of people in detention every year.

We are helping to build a movement in the UK for **women who are marginalised on the basis of their ethnicity**. The Issues Affecting Women Programme's bold new strategy prioritises work that questions traditional philanthropic dynamics. "I do this work because I believe it is possible to end violence against women and girls."

We are supporting partners **to address structural racism in the education system in North Carolina**, to raise awareness around the issue and to enable families to advocate for changes to practice, policy and systems that improve opportunity for marginalised students with learning differences. "This is changing what history has dealt us and showing that there can be a different way."

We have provided support to our partners to increase efforts **to stamp out child sexual abuse** – "it doesn't have to be this way". We know that child sexual abuse can be stopped by enlisting the support of parents and government programmes. "Now, we are able to shine a light into some of those dark places."

Through the Special Interest Programme, we are supporting **veterans in the UK**, as well as young women who may experience marginalisation because of their ethnicity, to get jobs. **Protected rural areas are being expanded** to encourage the regrowth of flora and fauna. In the face of austerity measures, **people are being supported to claim**

their rights to disability benefits. The Tiny Homes project in North Carolina provides small, independent-living options for homeless people, and the Climate Leadership Initiative is **tackling climate change head-on**.

In Brazil we adapted the programme's strategy **to generate a bigger impact**. By deepening democracy and encouraging public debates to include the voices of everyone, we hope that alternative ways to prevent violence, mediate conflict and restore justice can be implemented.

In Denmark, we support various organisations which **tackle the problem of homelessness from different angles**. "It's a way we can try to give worthiness and hopefulness to people."

In India, we support various communities practicing their livelihoods in vulnerable situations. Women workers, despite being in great numbers in certain trades, are often treated as invisible. The efforts of our partners to **elevate their voices and unite women around their collective needs** has strengthened them. "The leadership is there, it just needs to be nourished."

In Zimbabwe, we continue our work to empower communities by providing livelihood programmes to people with HIV/AIDS and their families, as well as healthcare across the country. In addition, **lives are being transformed through demining efforts**. "Soon, we will be able to walk freely."

Finally, we will soon say goodbye to longterm Housing and Homelessness Programme director Amanda Beswick, who leaves us after 19 years at Oak Foundation. We thank her for outstanding contributions to Oak's grant-making, in particular **in helping people stay in their homes or resolve situations of insecure housing**.

We are proud that our foundation aims to make a difference in the lives of others through the work of our partners, who are striving to combat inequity and injustice in society. We hope you enjoy reading about their work as much as we do.

Trustees of Oak Foundation:

Caroline Turner, Kristian Parker,
Natalie Shipton, Jette Parker,
Alan Parker, Christopher Parker

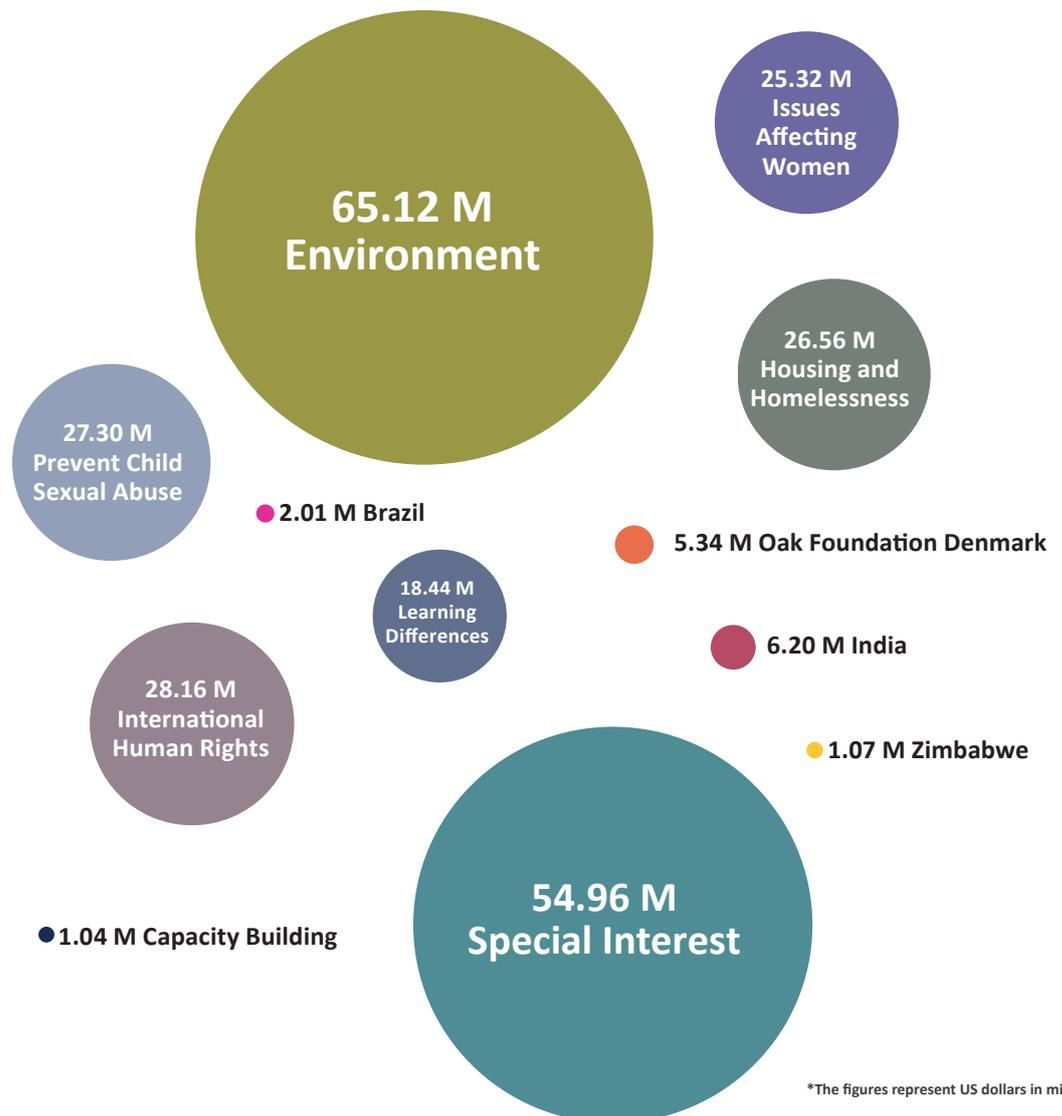
Our grant-making in 2019

During the 2019 calendar year, Oak Foundation's total net amount granted was USD 294.05 million. This figure includes 377 programme and special initiative grants, discretionary grants, refunds and cancellations. Overall, Oak provided programme and special initiative grants to 342 organisations based in 37 countries. The work of these organisations is carried out throughout the world. Not including the special initiative grants, the size of grants varied from approximately USD 25,000 to USD 15 million, with an average of USD 700,000.

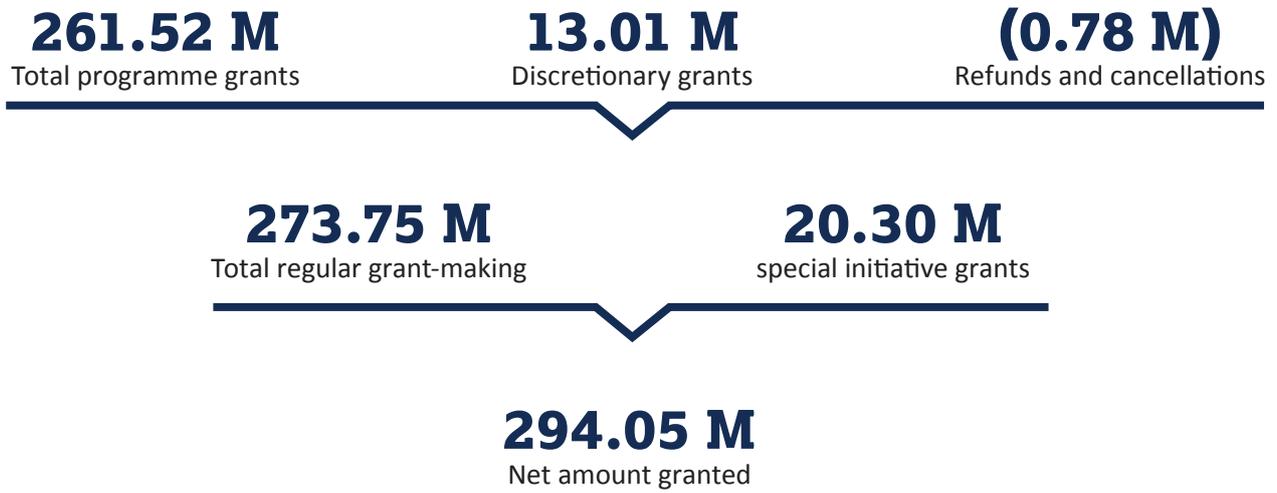
We made **377** programme and special initiative grants to **342** organisations in **37** countries.

Total grant-making in 2019*

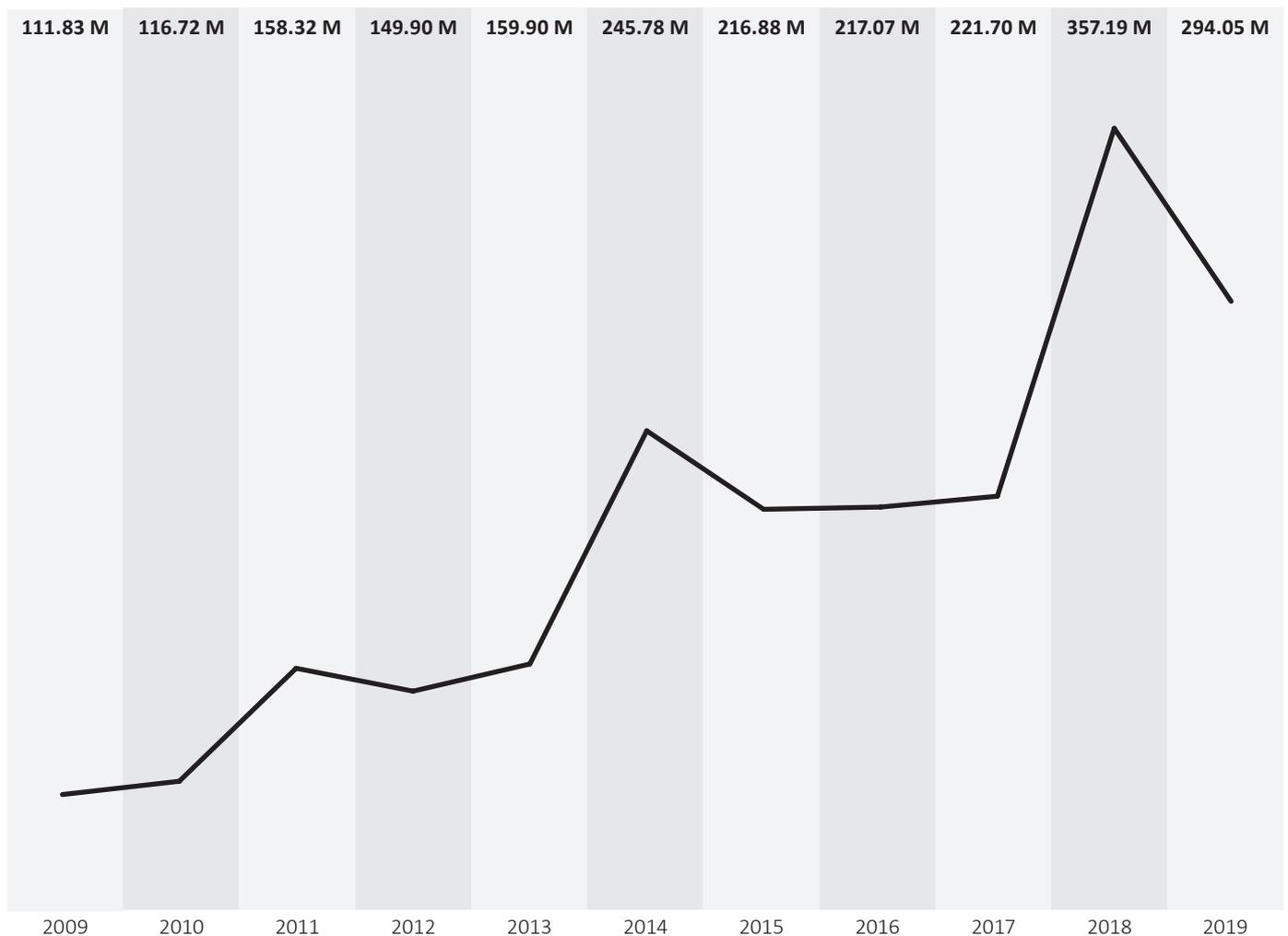
A searchable grant database containing current grants, grant-making criteria and application information is available on Oak Foundation's website: www.oakfnd.org.



*The figures represent US dollars in millions.



Total grant-making 2009-2019



Supporting our partners along the way

We are proud to be working with our partners across our many programmes. We strive to be purposeful and strategic in our grant-making. We provide opportunities for our partners to access support, including through: capacity building; child safeguarding; monitoring and evaluation; and communications. Read on for more information.

Capacity Building

Oak's capacity building and organisational development enables grantees to have access to and funding for high quality assistance. This helps them to develop leadership and management skills and builds high-performing organisations and effective networks.

The cost of capacity building for grantees is covered either through Oak grants or, indirectly, via intermediary organisations and capacity building providers. In 2019, grantee priorities determined how capacity building providers were chosen. These were:

- resource mobilisation, via Resource Alliance;
- leadership coaching, via Kairos, Coaches4Causes and the peer consultation group;
- support through short-term volunteers, via Catchafire; and
- safeguarding, via multiple providers, depending on the region.

In 2019 the capacity building unit underwent an internal review. It

showed that good progress has been made in building staff skills within Oak to support capacity building work. In addition we have built up a good repository of materials and guidance which help programme officers' work in this area. Externally, our biggest challenge remains the lack of capacity-building infrastructure in some of the contexts our grantees work in.

In 2020 we will determine future areas of focus through evaluations and an internal mapping of Oak's capacity building investment.

Please see page 53 of this report for our Capacity Building grants.

Child Safeguarding

Safeguarding children is everybody's business and we take our responsibility seriously.

Oak envisages a world where children are protected from all forms of abuse and exploitation and where their rights and safety are respected. We are determined to put children first in all we do, which is why we hold Oak and our employees accountable to high standards of child protection.

Strongly supported by its Trustees, Oak Foundation put in place its first Child Safeguarding Policy in 2013 and adopted a revised version in 2018. Our policy is a living document. In 2019, we worked to implement it by training our staff, reviewing our specific safeguarding risks and continuing to adapt and improve

the current policy, with the aim of presenting an updated version to our Trustees in 2020.

We ask our grantees to adhere to the same safeguarding standards that we set for ourselves. This is because we believe that our responsibility to keep children safe extends beyond the foundation, through to our partnerships with our grantees, and beyond. In 2019, we partnered with a number of specialised service providers around the world to provide our grantees with context-specific, relevant and useful safeguarding support.

Our work on child safeguarding also extends to collaboration with other foundations and trusts. In 2019, together with Comic Relief and with the support of Elevate Children Funders Group, we co-hosted convenings and webinars, set up an online resource forum and facilitated regular information sharing on safeguarding.

If you are a partner of Oak Foundation, please speak to your programme officer to find out more about the support you can receive.

Please see page 53 of this report for our Child Safeguarding grants.

Monitoring & Evaluation

At Oak Foundation we strive to combat injustice in society. But we know that social change is not a linear

process that can be controlled, and we cannot assume our grant-making will always contribute to the results we would like to see.

We believe it is important to learn from success and failure, and to use what we learn to adapt our grant-making and make it more impactful. We embrace the “do no harm” principle in our grant-making, which means we need to understand if our efforts are generating any negative unplanned effects for the people we want to serve.

To help us navigate these challenges, in 2019 we hired Marta Arranz as senior advisor of monitoring, evaluation and learning. Her role is to support programmes to make their grant-making strategies more explicit and sharper, to better use evidence to inform our decisions and to learn more systematically from our experience and that of our partners in order to be able to do grant-making better.

To this end, we are asking questions such as, “What, concretely speaking, is the impact of our grant-making? Where are we making progress and where are we not, and why? Are we looking at this issue in the right way? What would it take to make a bigger difference with the resources we have?”

We hope that this investment will improve how we fund and help us be better partners to our grantees and other funders with whom we share the same goals.

Communications

Communications plays a fundamental role at Oak Foundation. We believe that through good communications we contribute to a better, safer, cleaner, fairer world. Good communication helps build and maintain relationships internally among staff and externally with our partners. In addition, it helps ensure transparency around our grant-making and elevates the voices of those who are often the least heard.

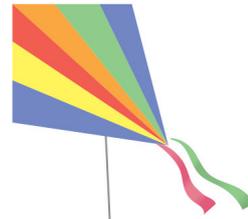
We seek to share stories about the great work of our partners being carried out across the world, on subjects that touch all of Oak’s programmes. They strive for a better world, for justice, greater equality and fairness. It is our honour to be able to help raise the voices of the people that benefit from our partners’ great work.

The work of our partners includes: ending sexual violence against children; finding greener energy solutions; bringing perpetrators of child sexual abuse to account for their wrongdoing; supporting changes in law and policy around housing that favour people of lesser means; supporting strong women’s movements; helping children learn; and many more.

We value communications as a vehicle for social change and provide funding for a variety of communication initiatives within our programmes. We also support capacity building efforts to expand global and local efforts to

improve communications. If you are an Oak partner and would like to hear more about that, please contact your programme officer.

Oak’s main communications channels are its website and its annual report, as well as through social media channels Twitter and Instagram. Please follow us! In addition, we love to hear success stories from our partners, so if you you are an Oak partner, please reach out to the Comms team at commdept@oakfnd.org and we will be happy to share your stories on our website or through social media.



Safeguarding a clean climate future, maintaining the health of the oceans and ensuring the safety of endangered wildlife.



| Environment

The Environment Programme has three sub-Programmes: Climate Change, Marine Conservation and Wildlife Conservation and Trade.

This year we focus on Marine Conservation, which has three aims: to support small-scale fisheries; to reduce plastic waste; and to make large-scale industrial fishing sustainable.

We believe that maintaining the health of the oceans is critical for the future of people and the planet. Yet our oceans are suffering from the compounding threats of overfishing, pollution and climate change. **We take a solutions-based approach to reversing this trend and to improving the oceans' health.** We support organisations based in Europe, the Arctic, East Asia and Africa. Read on to find out about the great work of Oceana, one of our grantees.

Returning abundance to the world's oceans

In July 1992, a group of angry fishermen stormed the hall at the St. John's Radisson Hotel in Newfoundland, Canada, and in a dramatic, public demonstration of their fury, tried to break down the doors. Film footage from the time depicts security guards jamming the door handles from inside with the legs of a chair and radioing for police support.

All of this came about following an important announcement from federal fisheries minister John Crosbie, who, along with the press, was in the room that evening. From midnight that night, there would be a two-year moratorium on commercial cod fishing in Newfoundland and Labrador. All fishing vessels were ordered to pull in their nets.

The entire Newfoundland cod industry collapsed overnight. The cod moratorium left at least 30,000 fishworkers very suddenly without a job, hence the fury of the fishermen.¹ Later, the ban was dubbed by some as the “biggest layoff in Canadian history”. The once abundant cod stocks that had brought European settlers over to Canada a few centuries earlier – and said to be so plentiful that you could walk across the water on their backs – had sustained local economies and people for 500 years. Now, Atlantic cod had reached its lowest levels in history along the coastal waters. The purpose of the ban was to allow the dwindling cod stocks, nearing extinction, to recover.

“This situation is really unprecedented in modern Canada,” Fred Morley, an economist with the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council in Halifax, told the Hamilton

Spectator at the time. “The only thing you can compare this to is the dust bowls on the Prairies in the 1930s.”²

The dustbowls are a good analogy, and if there has ever been an incident in history that demonstrates how we should better manage the earth's natural resources, it is the Newfoundland moratorium. Initially put in place for two years, it was believed that cod stocks would rebound by the end of the century. Leading environmentalists estimated that the once-plentiful stocks of Atlantic cod would need at least 15 years (the cod's natural lifespan) to get back to historic levels. Sadly, in 2019, the northern cod stocks are still at critical levels, some 28 years later.³

According to Joshua Laughren, executive director of Oceana Canada, there are ways to manage the resources of the ocean sustainably, so that moratoriums become a thing of the past and millions of people can live off the ocean's bounty for generations to come. “Fish really can rebuild,” he says. “Fish reproduce quickly, or at least a lot of them do, and they can recover, if we give them a chance. And that's what we're working on in Canada – to change that history of presiding over the largest collapse of a fishing industry in the world to presiding over abundant fish stocks.”



Caption: The photos throughout this section of the report illustrate the work of Oak partner Oceana and its efforts to protect oceans globally from harmful fishing practices, improve fisheries management, stop pollution and protect and preserve habitats and biodiversity.

References: Please see page 66 of this report.

Oceana is an international not-for-profit organisation dedicated to protecting and restoring the world's oceans on a global scale.



Oceana is an international not-for-profit organisation dedicated to protecting and restoring the world's oceans on a global scale. Operational for 17 years, Oceana has been supported by Oak since the start. Led by CEO Andrew Sharpless, it has an innovative way of working that has proved both efficient and effective, garnering plenty of success over the years.

To Andrew, this success is attributed to its approach. Firstly, it focuses only on the oceans. Secondly, key to its success is hiring local people in the countries where it operates. They are best positioned to know what is best for their respective countries, and they deliver the message to key stakeholders who have the power to implement laws that bring about longlasting, beneficial change for everyone. "The Chileans speak to the Chilean Government, the Peruvians talk to the Peruvian Government, the Filipinos talk to the Filipino Government," says Andrew. "And in every case, what they are fighting for is a rebuilt ocean, an abundant ocean. More fish in it, that people can eat – and that's good for jobs, that's good for hungry people, that's good for the economy."

Oceana works all around the world. It knows that oceans provide livelihoods to countless fishermen and women on the earth, and that they feed hundreds of millions of people every day. Alarmed at declining fish stocks, it uses science-based fishery management to establish catch limits, reduce bycatch and protect habitats. It strives, not just towards restoring the world's oceans and sustaining fish stocks, but towards returning it to a state of abundance to be enjoyed by people today and for many generations to come.

"A rebuilt ocean has more fish in it – and that's good for jobs, for hungry people and for the economy."

Andrew Sharpless

In each country in which it operates, Oceana's teams work with the governments to pass laws that help rebuild the oceans. "And if you do that, look what you've done," says Andrew. "You've fed a billion people

everyday forever, you've increased the biodiversity of the ocean and you've helped with climate change."

Joshua of Oceana Canada stresses the importance of only taking out of the ocean what the ocean can afford to give. "If you overfish them, it's like spending down capital, you burn it all and you have nothing left," he says. "But if you take only the interest that's produced every year, you can keep doing that, for year upon year and generation after generation. So, set the right quota, and only take out the amount of fish that the ocean can sustain."

Other issues that Oceana works on around the world include protecting oceans from harmful fishing practices in order to prevent overfishing, improving fisheries management and stopping pollution, such as from salmon aquaculture and mining. It also works to protect and preserve habitats and biodiversity.

“We know how to rebuild the oceans.”

In Chile, aquaculture is big business. Fish farming has been introduced to the Chilean fjords, with salmon, an introduced species, upsetting the natural ecosystem and wreaking havoc on the indigenous fish populations in many once-pristine areas. The resulting depletion in indigenous fish stocks has made it more difficult for artisanal fishermen to catch fish and make a living.

In addition, tonnes of antibiotics are funneled into salmon aquaculture every year. This helps them to reach their target weight quickly, but it is bad for the fish, for the habitat and for people’s health. Antimicrobial resistance has become one of the biggest threats to global health. It is estimated that more than 700,000 people die each year due to drug-resistant infections, and it is feared that this could increase to more than 10 million people a year worldwide by 2050.⁴

Oceana works to stop the damage caused by salmon aquaculture in Chile’s fjords. Liesbeth van der Meer, vice president of Oceana Chile, explains how Oceana has been fighting to reduce the amount of antibiotics used in salmon aquaculture. “In five years, we hope they won’t be used anymore,” she says. “We are working to reduce their use each year by 25 per cent.”

Oceana also works to limit salmon aquaculture to certain regions, to reduce the amount of confined fish and to support the creation of marine-protected areas. Oceana’s efforts have saved over 6,000 km² in Patagonia from salmon farming.

This has opened the door for these areas to be attractive for tourism. Oceana informs people how tourism is ruined by salmon aquaculture, and how the jobs it provides are insecure – people lose their jobs as soon as the fisheries, which are mobile, move on. This can happen very suddenly if the fishery becomes diseased and all the fish die off, for example.

“Instead, jobs can be found through artisanal fisheries and tourism,” says Liesbeth. “These are the most beautiful areas of Chile. Thousands of people travel every year, just to see Patagonia. But if salmon aquaculture moves to these pristine places, tourism is gone.”

Oceana believes that a certain amount of salmon aquaculture is sustainable, but this amount has been surpassed, destroying the ecosystems that are the base of sustainable jobs. Controlling destructive fishing practices like salmon aquaculture and putting in place more sustainable fishing practices are its goal.

“We have shown that we know how to rebuild the oceans,” says Andrew. “And I want to emphasise that people don’t understand that rebuilding is possible. They just think that all you can do is stop the decline. There are a lot of groups celebrating sustainability, and when you listen to them carefully, you realise that all they’re doing is not making it worse. They’re not celebrating rebuilding what once was! But that’s very achievable in the ocean. And so that’s what we focus on.”

Joshua considers protecting the abundance of the oceans to be quite straightforward.

“Set the right quotas based on science,” he says. “Protect the habitats, and police the areas to enforce the rules. We know that fish will come back, we’ve seen this all over the world.”

“If we give the ocean a chance, it will come back, it will sustain us.”

Joshua Laughren

Some 71 per cent of the world is the ocean. In the year 2050, Oceana wants it to be abundant with life. Oak Foundation supports it in its endeavours.

Go to our website for a deeper dive into Oak’s Environment Programme’s strategy to protect the oceans. Plus, if you would you like to hear what Andrew, Joshua and Liesbeth have to say firsthand, check out the video in our online annual report, to be published May 2020!

Grants

Climate Change

Amazon Watch

USD 150,000 (2 years)

To help protect tropical forests and support local indigenous groups to protect their territories in the Brazilian Amazon.

Brookings Institution India Center

USD 625,787 (3 years)

To conduct a deeper examination of energy policy and practice at regional and national levels in India.

Centre for Policy Research

USD 524,659 (4 years)

To provide support to the Centre for Policy Research to continue its work to promote the integration of climate policies within the overall development framework in India.

Clean Air Asia

USD 800,000 (3 years)

To support Clean Air Asia in its work to help optimise the Chinese Government's three-year air pollution action plan commitments by supporting citizens' engagement in meeting the 2020 air quality targets.

Clean Air Fund

USD 5,000,000 (3 years)

To improve air quality around the world to ensure everyone can breathe healthy air and transition to a low carbon world.

Climate Bonds Initiative

USD 749,996 (3 years)

To grow the green bond market globally, especially across Southeast Asia.

Climate Policy Initiative (CPI)

USD 300,000 (3 years)

To support CPI to become a climate finance organisation aimed at encouraging financial flows towards climate resilient growth.

Energy Foundation

USD 2,000,000 (3 years)

To support Energy Foundation China's new vision and strategy, which aims to support China's climate and energy transformation and empower and co-create climate solutions with local stakeholders.

Engajamundo

USD 207,163 (2 years)

To provide core support to Engajamundo in its work to support youth leadership in Brazil.

European Climate Foundation

USD 2,800,001 (3 years)

To enable effective communications and outreach around clean energy transitions for a safer future.

European Climate Foundation

USD 250,000 (1 year)

To provide support for climate youth movement leaders.

European Climate Foundation

USD 300,000 (18 months)

To ensure that action on climate change is part of the discourse leading up to the European elections.

European Climate Foundation

USD 200,000 (3 months)

To carry out research on gas infrastructure investments and investors in Europe.

European Environmental Bureau

USD 750,835 (3 years)

To strengthen European and national laws that apply to the operation of coal-fired power plants.

European Federation for Transport and Environment

USD 255,682 (1 year)

To campaign to electrify Uber drivers' fleets in Europe by 2030.

European Foundation Centre

USD 56,818 (5 years)

To strengthen the European Environmental Funders' Group by improving philanthropic knowledge, collaboration, strategy and impact in the field.

Global Call for Climate Action (GCCA)

USD 140,000 (3 months)

To support GCCA to close down its global activities in a sound and respectful manner.

Global Witness

USD 149,997 (18 months)

To help protect tropical forests and prevent deforestation-related human rights abuses in Brazil.

Graduate Institute Geneva

USD 106,271 (16 months)

To establish a merit-based internship programme within Oak's Environment Programme.

Greenpeace Central Eastern Europe

USD 1,056,200 (3 years)

To support Europe's climate leadership through a fast and fair transition to clean power.

Instituto Arapyau

USD 300,000 (18 months)

To map the land-cover and land-use changes of all the Brazilian biomes, and to support and advance sustainable management and conservation of natural resources.

Instituto Clima e Sociedade

USD 1,040,000 (30 months)

To support sustainable, inclusive, transparent and gender-friendly mobility systems, and to support civil society to avoid polarisation on important issues.

Jhatkaa

USD 182,766 (3 years)

To provide core support to Jhatkaa.org, which works to mitigate the negative impacts of air pollution on health in India.

Meridian Institute

USD 290,000 (2 years)

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions from food systems by addressing emissions related to production and consumption, and promoting healthy diets particularly in developed regions such as Europe.

Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.

USD 500,000 (2 years)

To set the development of Shanxi Province towards a low carbon and renewable energy path.

Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.

USD 500,000 (3 years)

To support China's Global Climate Action Initiative (GCAI) to promote climate actions in selected developing countries.

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc.

USD 6,000,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to the Urban Movement Innovation Fund to scale philanthropic funding to organisations that can work strategically and collaboratively to build movements to challenge the climate crisis and deliver solutions.



Urgewald-Geschäftsstelle Sassenberg

USD 750,245 (3 years)

To support financial institutions to adopt policies that end investment in and the financing of the coal industry.

World Resources Institute

USD 350,000 (2 years)

To promote a shift in consumers' choices of food away from meat towards more sustainable plant-based dishes and to help large food providers implement these solutions at scale globally.

Marine

Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission

USD 300,000 (3 years)

To support communities to address the impact of increased vessel traffic in Alaska and off-shore oil and gas development on bowhead whale habitat and harvesting activities.

Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust

USD 50,000 (1 year)

To support the Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust to provide community-based smallscale fishermen with access to the Alaska sablefish fishery.

Blue Ventures

USD 651,605 (42 months)

To safeguard small-scale fisheries in the Western Indian Ocean by inspiring policy reform and increasing community empowerment.

Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)

USD 1,000,000 (3 years)

To support CIEL to create an international legal and policy regime to eliminate plastic pollution, addressing the full lifecycle of plastic.

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

USD 300,000 (3 years)

To carry out a study that more precisely analyses the leakage of plastics into the oceans.

Ellen MacArthur Foundation

USD 1,000,000 (3 years)

To support the Ellen MacArthur Foundation in its work to turn the plastics industry towards a fully circular economy and to prevent plastic waste polluting our oceans, waterways, atmosphere and soil.

Environmental Management and Economic Development Organization

USD 200,000 (3 years)

To strengthen capacities of women fishers and fish workers across the African Continent.

Environmental Defense, Inc.

USD 400,000 (2 years)

To develop a small-scale fisheries governance knowledge platform to help build and strengthen the economic, social and ecological health of global fisheries.

Environmental Justice Foundation CT (EJF)

USD 1,000,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to EJF, which works globally to stop illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA)

USD 100,000 (1 year)

To support GAIA to develop and implement an organisational development plan to enlarge its focus to include a broader range of core issues.

Greenpeace International

USD 600,000 (3 years)

To support Greenpeace in East and Southeast Asia to investigate the problems of ecologically unsustainable fishing and human rights abuses in the world's fishing fleets.

ICCA Consortium

USD 1,035,455 (3 years)

To re-grant to and support governance efforts at sub-national levels where Locally Managed Marine Areas and Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCA) are at different stages of implementation.

International Collective in Support of Fishworkers

USD 545,614 (4 years)

To support the implementation of the small-scale fisheries guidelines in countries in Asia, Africa and South America.

Inuit Circumpolar Council-Alaska

USD 200,000 (2 years)

To build the next generation of Alaskan Inuit leaders engaged in the mission and programme priorities of the Inuit Circumpolar Council and to contribute to overall organisational sustainability.

Kawerak, Inc.

USD 200,000 (2 years)

To support tribes in Alaska to establish a body of regional representatives who have a seat at decision-making tables in the national and international arenas regarding use of Bering Sea and Bering Strait.

Memorial University

USD 397,359 (4 years)

To communicate the importance of social justice in the Blue Growth/Blue Economy agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Small Scale Fisheries Guidelines.

Meridian Institute

USD 100,000 (2 years)

To build a coordinated network with a shared goal and vision for a more sustainable, equitable, and effective management system for small-scale fisheries around the world.

Nature Conservancy

USD 374,050 (1 year)

To develop an online platform that brings together geospatial data on mangrove cover, status, functions and values.

Oceana, Inc.

USD 10,000,000 (3 years)

To support Oceana in its global efforts to help ensure that the oceans continue to thrive and be a source of food and scientific discovery, generate jobs and power economies for generations to come.

Oceano Azul Foundation

USD 400,000 (3 years)

To support Oceano Azul, a Portuguese foundation, to increase the capacity of local not-for-profit organisations working with small-scale fisheries.

Oceans North Charitable Society

USD 600,000 (3 years)

To strengthen more than 50 Inuit communities on Canada's Northwest Passage in the Arctic ocean to help protect some of the world's most important northern marine habitats.

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc.

USD 2,250,000 (3 years)

To support Funding Fish to create strong, collaborative philanthropy on fisheries governance in Europe and to ensure the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy.

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc.

USD 4,500,000 (3 years)

To support Oceans 5 in its global projects that advance ocean conservation through creating marine reserves, constraining overfishing and eliminating illegal fishing.

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc.

USD 2,500,000 (3 years)

To support the growing roster of successful projects being resourced by the Plastic Solutions Fund in order to end plastic pollution in the ocean, land and atmosphere.

The Story of Stuff Project

USD 750,000 (3 years)

To prevent plastic polluting the ocean, land and atmosphere.

University of Maine System, Inc.

USD 201,638 (4 years)

To support the longterm health and wellbeing of small-scale fisheries in the United States.

World Wildlife Fund, Inc.

USD 1,500,000 (3 years)

To support the development of strong fisheries management by supporting government policy in China.

WWF International

USD 868,197 (3 years)

To support WWF in its efforts to support government policies to end plastic pollution in China.

Wildlife Conservation and Trade

Frankfurt Zoological Society

USD 1,237,980 (2 years)

To support the five pillars of Gonarezhou Conservation Trust: conservation, community, connectivity, commercial and corporate governance.

Frankfurt Zoological Society

USD 99,999 (1 year)

To enable communities in Zimbabwe and Mozambique to benefit from opportunities in tourism and wildlife-based land-use.

International Conservation Caucus Foundation

USD 750,000 (3 years)

To support political collaboration in the US, UK and Southern Africa to advance conservation governance and resource allocation.

PAMS Foundation

USD 1,936,586 (3 years)

To provide core support to PAMS Foundation's activities in Tanzania and Central Africa.

Panthera

USD 999,878 (2 years)

To build international capacity and transnational networks to stop the trafficking of big cats.

Renctas

USD 200,000 (3 years)

To tackle wildlife trafficking in Latin America and the Caribbean by creating an International Campaign Against Wildlife Trafficking to serve as a collaboration network of not-for-profit organisations.

University of Mpumalanga

USD 326,009 (3 years)

To examine the role that bush meat plays in the wellbeing of people in the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area in Southern Africa and secure the benefits that these resources provide to local communities and economies.

Wildlife Asia

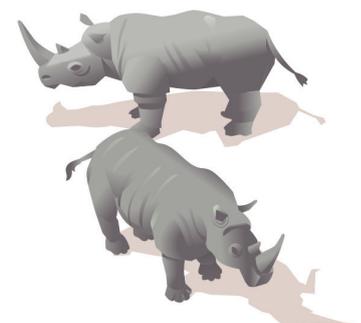
USD 814,000 (2 years)

To support wildlife conservation projects in Southeast Asia and build the capacity of conservation organisations.

Wildlife Conservation Society

USD 399,000 (2 years)

To support conservation efforts in Southeast Asia.



Supporting a world where everyone can flourish in life, access equitable opportunities and live in a safe and stable home



Housing and Homelessness

The Housing and Homelessness Programme (HHP) focuses on preventing homelessness by funding sustainable solutions that improve the economic and social wellbeing of marginalised youth, adults and families. The programme's three priorities are: promoting economic self-sufficiency; increasing the availability and supply of affordable housing; and preventing homelessness.

Over the last ten years, the scale of HHP grant-making has increased – from USD 13 million in 2010 to USD 27 million

in 2019. As a result, the programme has grown from 80 to 140 grants over the same time period.

In 2020, HHP's longstanding director Amanda Beswick will move on. This planned transition naturally prompts reflection on how the programme has developed over the last decade, which is the subject of the text on the following pages.

A decade of advocating for people without homes

As a barometer measures air pressure in the environment, homelessness is a barometer sensitive to a wide range of changes in our environment. Over the last decade, Oak funding has supported services that have helped thousands of people keep their homes or resolve their homelessness. We have adapted our funding strategy to changes in welfare, tenancy, employment and immigration policies. New concepts like 'zero hours contract', 'big data' and 'Brexit' have influenced the Programme's approach and its grant-making.

Given that homelessness is driven by policy decisions, one of the major areas of growth in the last ten years has been advocacy. Oak's Housing and Homelessness Programme (HHP) has fully embraced its role in supporting advocacy to address structural factors that can either support people to stay in their homes or push them towards homelessness.

When successful, the impact of advocacy work can be felt by thousands of people for years to come. Alluring as this is, the HHP has never lost sight of the human story at its heart. We believe the most effective advocacy and the best policies grow out of real-life experience, so we have stayed close to this work. Our advocacy work stretches across the three pillars of the strategy – economic wellbeing, homelessness prevention and affordable housing supply.

Economic wellbeing – protecting entitlements

Poverty underpins homelessness; therefore, one of the three pillars of the programme is promoting economic wellbeing.

We know that working hard does not mean you will be able to provide for your family and pay your rent. Today,

entitlements have become more important for low-income families, at a time when the UK Government is pushing forward with major changes to the system.

In 2010, HHP was funding one project that was concerned with advocacy for entitlements. In 2019, there were 13.

The Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG), which works on behalf of more than one in four children in the UK growing up in poverty, is one of the organisations we fund. It tries to understand what causes poverty, the impact it has on children's lives, and how it can be prevented.

The CPAG started an 'early warning system', which gathers evidence from organisations working with families reliant on the social security system, and uses this evidence to improve the system. The early warning system was established in 2017; by April 2019 it had received 1,200 submissions from 102 organisations. Among other issues, its data enabled CPAG to recognise a structural problem concerning monthly benefit payment cycles that the Government's Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) had failed to address. Through the early warning system, CPAG was able to connect with four working mothers whose benefits



Caption: The photos above and on the following pages of the HHP section of this report come from Café Art, based in London, the UK. Café Art's mission is to connect people affected by homelessness with the wider community through their art.

References: Please see page 66 of this report.

Over the last decade, we have adapted our funding strategy to changes in welfare, tenancy, employment and immigration policies.



were underpaid due to faulty monthly assessment methods and who were willing to be the centre of a court case. The High Court concluded that the way the DWP had been assessing income from employment was unlawful. This has resulted in a revised assessment system. Now tens of thousands will receive the benefits due to them.

Homelessness prevention advocacy – housing rights

Over the last decade, the number of UK private renters increased by 63 per cent to 4.5 million.¹ In 2016, there were 43 million renters across the US, accounting for 36.6 per cent of households, the highest rate since 1965.² Evictions continue to be a major source of homelessness; between 2010 and 2017, evictions in the UK rose by 53 per cent – to 169 per day.³ In the US, eviction has been compared to an epidemic – 900,000 households are evicted every year.⁴

In 2019, the HHP portfolio included 35 advocacy projects concerned with housing rights, compared with ten in 2010. Eleven of these projects provide support to individuals alongside their advocacy work.

In 2018, Oak's Housing and Homelessness Programme made

a grant to support the Right to Counsel New York City Coalition. In earlier years, this coalition, which is made up of advocates, tenants, academics and legal service providers, organised a successful campaign for low-income tenants in New York City to have the right to free legal counsel when facing eviction. Victory came in August 2017, when the New York City Council passed legislation granting this right, and committed to its implementation across New York City within five years. Oak's grant to the coalition was to ensure that the Right to Counsel is implemented in a way that turns a law into a right, builds tenant power and transforms the nature of the housing court system.

Initially, the Right to Counsel was rolled out to 20 zip codes that account for 26 per cent of NYC's 21,000 evictions. In 2018, evictions declined by 11 per cent in these zip codes compared with 2 per cent in other comparable zip codes. In addition, 84 per cent of people represented by city-funded attorneys were able to remain in their homes.⁵

"With the help of a lawyer, I was able to reach an agreement with my landlord so that I could pay what I owed over a period of time that was achievable for me," said one tenant facing eviction who had been living

in Williamsburg for 25 years. "It was a chaotic situation until I had legal representation."

Housing supply advocacy – 'Naturally occurring affordable housing'

Over the last decade, advocacy to protect and increase funding for affordable housing has been a mainstay of HHP's portfolio. However, because the production of new affordable housing cannot meet demand in the UK or the US, we started supporting what is now being termed 'naturally occurring affordable housing' (NOAH).

An example of NOAH is rooted in Philadelphia's dominant architecture – the 'rowhouse' – a modest-sized family home. Historically, rowhouses placed homeownership within reach of Philadelphia's low-income workers. As a result, an extraordinary number of low-income Philadelphians own their homes – nearly 38 per cent of city homeowners have annual household incomes below USD 35,000. In addition, about 41 per cent of owner-occupied homes are owned free and clear, without mortgages. However, many of the owners are elderly and have limited incomes, making it hard for them to keep up with taxes, utilities and maintenance.

In 2014, Oak supported the 'Healthy Rowhouse Project', an initiative to encourage a new way of thinking – seeing rowhouses in need of repair as a potential asset that could provide low-cost high-quality housing for families, if they could afford to repair them. “The government has overlooked homeowners in working class neighbourhoods who are too often denied loans by big banks,” said Philadelphia City Councilwoman Cherelle Parker. “The Healthy Rowhouse Project provides an affordable tool for residents to preserve their most prized asset, their home.”

In 2017, the Philadelphia City Council approved a USD 100 million package for home repairs: USD 60 million was allocated for grants to help people repair their homes, and USD 40 million underpins a programme to provide loans to low-income Philadelphians so they can repair their homes. We continue to support our partner Clarifi to provide low-income homeowners with financial counselling as they take advantage of the loan programme.

These examples illustrate some of the great work of our partners over the last decade, under the leadership of HHP director Amanda Beswick. In May 2020, Amanda will move on to the next stage in her life and we wish her well.

“It has been a great privilege to lead the Housing and Homelessness programme, to work alongside a stellar team and creative Trustees,” she says. “Most of all, to partner with organisations determined to address what is unfair, to maximise opportunity, and to preserve rights that are threatened. I have been fortunate to lead a programme which has expanded and evolved, but there is much to be done and new leadership will bring fresh ideas and approaches.”

We thank Amanda for her great work and wish her the very best in her future endeavours.

“It’s been a great privilege to partner with organisations determined to address what’s unfair.”

Amanda Beswick



Captions

P17.1: The Model by Somalenny: Somalenny took this shot of fellow Crisis member and MyLondon photographer Eva, who came to London from Lithuania and was tricked into working for people smugglers. She escaped and was helped by Crisis, a well-known UK homeless charity and partner of Oak. Somalenny’s hobby is electronic music. “Homelessness is not an easy one to get yourself out of,” he says.

P17.2: Freedom by Mohammad Hasan: Mohammad photographed his hand reaching out to a crow which was part of a mural by Otto Schade on Princelet Street, Spitalfields, London. “There is freedom [in this mural]. The bird is flying with a drone inside the cage.” Mohammad lives in supported accommodation run by Renewal Programme. “I’m trying to get out, to get involved, doing drama class, music and photography with Crisis. I want to come back again to work and lead a normal life.”

P 17.3: Funfair ride by Lui Saatchi: Lui wanted to take a picture of the funfair ride when it went up, “so I stayed there a few minutes. When it went up I just lay on the ground because I couldn’t get all the image inside the frame so I was on the floor. People were looking at me trying to figure out what I was doing there!” Lui attends 240 Project art group.

P 18: Thames Cruise by Meya: “I was on the Millennium Bridge. It was crowded. Then I see this boat with all this space and just two people sitting there. It was a ‘quick shot moment thing’ because they disappeared under the bridge a second later.” Meya attends an art group run by One Housing in Camden Town.

Left: Why? By Deep. Deep was walking along Great Portland Street when he came across a mural by street artist Loretto. “I just saw that and I thought Yeah, this would be a good picture to just question Theresa May.” Deep goes to the photography group run by Jeff Hubbard at Crisis.

P 20: Kerbside Bloom by Richard Fletcher: “Charterhouse Square is one of my favourite ‘secret escapes’ in London. I noticed this flower in the gutter. Straight away the symbolism hit me. If you are homeless and you keep trying you will eventually blossom. The flower is a Spanish Bluebell. I think the connection between homelessness, the gutter and blossoming forth is quite a strong one.”

Grants

Economic self-sufficiency

Asylum Support Appeals Project (ASAP)

USD 385,929 (4 years)

To support ASAP to provide free, high-quality legal representation and advice for asylum seekers appealing against a Home Office refusal or withdrawal of support.

Center for Economic Democracy

USD 494,998 (4 years)

To expand the Ujima Project in Boston, the United States, which addresses inequality in neighbourhoods by providing loans to businesses that are owned by people of colour.

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

USD 1,600,000 (4 years)

To ensure that the interests of low- and moderate-income households are represented in policy debates in the United States.

Edinburgh Cyrenians

USD 91,027 (2 years)

To develop an approach to working with employers and businesses so they feel secure and supported to employ individuals with convictions.

Good Faith Partnership

USD 88,615 (3 months)

To research access to affordable personal lending for low-income households.

National Law Center for Homelessness and Poverty

USD 499,427 (4 years)

To fight against the criminalisation of homeless people across the United States through impact litigation, policy advocacy, public education, and network and capacity building.

Research Foundation of the City University of New York

USD 740,567 (3 years)

To remove and reduce barriers to employment and housing for people caught up in the justice system in New York, the United States.



Solas Cymru

USD 128,204 (1 year)

To support Pobl Care and Support to expand its social enterprise coffee shop offer, 'One Twelve Coffee', in South Wales.

The Bridge Fund

USD 300,000 (3 years)

To develop an Income Growth Programme for clients in New York City to remove or reduce their rent burden while improving or maintaining a good work/life balance.

The House of St Barnabas

USD 89,744 (15 months)

To support Employment Academy graduates to develop their longer-term career pathways through testing out partnerships with employers.

Homelessness prevention

Central England Law Centre

USD 496,154 (3 years)

To expand Kids in Need of Defense UK's collaboration with private law firms and train and supervise lawyers who provide pro bono representation in children's immigration cases in the United Kingdom.

Central England Law Centre

USD 492,308 (4 years)

To support the Central England Law Centre to prevent and reduce homelessness and poverty through specialist legal and social welfare expertise in Birmingham, the United Kingdom.

Heriot-Watt University

USD 382,386 (22 months)

To undertake research on ending street homelessness in 13 cities around the world, with the aim of assessing progress towards ending homelessness, drawing meaningful comparisons and capturing learning.

HomeStart, Inc.

USD 1,250,000 (5 years)

To provide core support to HomeStart in Boston, the United States, which offers homelessness prevention services and supports people to find stable housing.

Just for Kids Law (JfKL)

USD 478,463 (3 years)

To enable JfKL to improve housing and support for young people.

Legal Clinic for the Disabled

USD 330,940 (3 years)

To empower people with disabilities who have low incomes in the Philadelphia region of the United States by providing free, high quality representation to overcome legal obstacles that would otherwise affect their independence, health or quality of life.

Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network

USD 308,450 (3 years)

To empower refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in London, the United Kingdom, to thrive, contribute positively to the community, integrate and take control of their lives.

New York Foundation

USD 400,000 (2 years)

To join a funder collaborative in New York City, the United States, that makes grants to community-based organisations and coalitions.

Oasis Cardiff

USD 436,777 (4 years)

To strengthen the internal structures of Oasis Cardiff in Wales and build its capacity to successfully achieve its strategic aims.

One25

USD 1,282,051 (5 years)

To provide core support to One25, which works with street sex workers through a person-centred approach in Bristol, the United Kingdom.

SIFA Fireside

USD 186,899 (3 years)

To support homeless or vulnerably-housed people in Birmingham, the United Kingdom.

Tenant Union Representative Network (TURN)

USD 434,679 (4 years)

To support TURN to systematically support low-income tenants to avoid homelessness through education programmes, rental subsidy services and advocacy.

The Bail Project

USD 1,256,944 (4 years)

To support The Bail Project in providing free bail assistance to low-income New Yorkers and to employ a Chief Data Officer to drive the organisation's data strategy in service of bail reform.

Vicar's Relief Fund

USD 1,063,949 (3 years)

To amplify the voices of frontline workers in local and national level decisions in the United Kingdom relating to ending homelessness.

Welsh Refugee Council

USD 408,033 (3 years)

To expand the capacity of the Welsh Refugee Council (WRC) to provide a homelessness prevention service in Cardiff for asylum seekers and refugees, as well as building links with the city council, social and private sector landlords.

Women's Lunch Place (WLP)

USD 374,947 (3 years)

To provide extra capacity to the WLP to expand and develop its Outreach Advocacy Initiative, which supports women with complex needs who are homeless (or insecurely housed), into more stable housing.

Zacchaeus 2000 Trust (Z2K)

USD 1,025,641 (5 years)

To provide core support to Z2K, based in London, the United Kingdom, to develop its debt advice, welfare benefits and homelessness prevention services.

Increasing the supply of low-income housing

Community Voices Heard

USD 960,000 (5 years)

To provide core support to Community Voices Heard, a member-led organisation of low-income people, predominantly women, in the United States.

Housing Rights Initiative

USD 447,706 (5 years)

To identify legal services households in New York, the United States, experiencing rent fraud, and support them to win rent refunds and protect affordable rent levels.

Project Hope

USD 474,000 (3 years)

To reduce the numbers of children experiencing homelessness in seven schools in Boston, the United States.

National Economic and Social Rights Initiative

USD 400,000 (3 years)

To create a public financing model and strategy to develop and scale community land trusts that provide permanently affordable housing for low-income households.

Regional Housing Legal Services (RHLS)

USD 1,500,000 (5 years)

To provide core support to RHLS, which works to improve the economic capacity of low-income people in Philadelphia, the United States.

Social and Sustainable Capital Trust

USD 2,564,103 (12 years)

To establish a housing loan fund to enable charities to purchase residential property for their clients and facilitate asset ownership in the not-for-profit sector.

Social Bite Fund

USD 961,540 (3 years)

To develop the Housing First Programme in five Scottish cities, with the longer term aim of mainstreaming the model across Scotland.

Learning

Center for Urban Community Services, Inc.

USD 544,750 (3 years)

To develop a family service model and staff training curriculum for family-supportive housing programmes in New York City, the United States.

East Europe Foundation

USD 39,930 (17 months)

To raise awareness about the rights and issues faced by homeless people in Moldova.

Museum of Homelessness

USD 25,642 (2 years)

To increase the capacity of the Museum of Homelessness, an organisation based in London, the United Kingdom, that collects and shares the art, histories and culture of homelessness and housing.

National Network for Youth

USD 99,900 (1 year)

To assess the needs of rural communities across the United States and develop a working plan to assist them in improving housing and services to youth at-risk of or experiencing homelessness.

TakeRoot Justice

USD 483,853 (3 years)

To help improve New York City Housing Authority residents' understanding of the laws that apply to new private construction on public housing properties in New York City, the United States.

The Social Change Initiative

USD 28,205 (6 months)

To evaluate the impact of the Transatlantic Exchange Programme, which enabled staff working in homelessness organisations in the United States and the United Kingdom the opportunity to research different models of working on homelessness on the other side of the Atlantic.

Y2Y Network

USD 100,000 (1 year)

To provide support to Y2Y Harvard Square, an overnight shelter in Boston, the United States, for young homeless adults run by student volunteers attending Harvard.

Other

Citizens UK

USD 1,923,077 (5 years)

To provide core support to Citizens UK, whose mission is to build the capacity of people from disadvantaged areas to participate in public life.

Utility Emergency Services Fund (UESF)

USD 300,030 (2 years)

To support UESF to stabilise housing for families facing a housing crisis by addressing their immediate needs and removing the barriers to long-term stability.

Women Acting In Today's Society

USD 223,021 (4 years)

To increase civic engagement by empowering women through structured and supported training.





Protecting and promoting the human rights of all people

International Human Rights

One of the priorities of the International Human Rights Programme (IHRP) is to uphold fundamental guarantees in international law which prohibit arbitrary detention and torture and ensure the observance of due process guarantees. To this end, **we support efforts in the immigration and criminal justice contexts to reduce arbitrary detention.**

We do this by: ensuring independent and adequate oversight of detention regimes; promoting attitudinal

change by the state on the necessity and duration of detention; and promoting, developing and implementing alternatives to detention.

We also support interventions which uphold the due process rights of detainees, including their right to challenge their detention. Efforts to prevent indefinite detention of immigrants in the UK fall under this area of our programme. The stories on the following pages illustrate our partners' efforts in this regard.

Uniting to stop indefinite detention in the UK

Around the world, immigration detention is increasingly imposed, not as a 'last resort', as required in international law, but as a routine tool of migration management. The International Human Rights Programme partners with organisations in the US, Europe and the UK that work to uphold fundamental rights governing the deprivation of liberty. This includes due process, judicial oversight, humane conditions and, increasingly, alternatives to detention.

The UK is the only country in Europe with no time limit on immigration detention.

A 2017 BBC Panorama documentary brought home this reality. It revealed harrowing personal stories and abuse suffered by detainees in Brook House Immigration Removal Centre near Heathrow airport.

The documentary featured Alif, who initially came to the UK on a student visa. He had lived in London for 16 years at the time of broadcast, when he was in the process of applying for asylum. In his home country of Pakistan, Alif was a qualified doctor. In the UK, he had worked as a trainee audiologist in a London hospital. In a moving testimony, he recounted his immigration experience in the UK – his detention and release three times since his student visa expired, his fear of detention and of being re-detained. Alif is just one of nearly 25,000 people¹ who pass through the UK's immigration detention system each year. Detainees include: vulnerable asylum-seekers; those with 'irregular' status; and those with a criminal record facing deportation.

The decision to detain is taken by officials. It is administrative and generally not subject to judicial

scrutiny. "While a minority of people in detention will have previous convictions, crucially, all will have served their criminal conviction in a prison before being moved to the immigration centre," says James Wilson, deputy director of UK charity Detention Action. Unlike people charged with a criminal offence, there is no automatic legal advice or representation to challenge immigration detention. In many respects, the system affords detained migrants even fewer rights than a criminal defendant.

"There are currently seven immigration removal centres around the UK. There are varying levels of security but they all operate as prisons – some of them were former prisons. Everybody being held there is being held purely on reasons of immigration administration," says James.

The 2018 'Windrush Scandal', in which long-term residents from the Commonwealth were unlawfully detained and deported, brought into sharp focus the human consequences of the government's explicit 'hostile environment' policy for immigrants. "The Windrush scandal really shifted public perception of immigration policies in the UK," says Steffi



Caption: The photos throughout this section of the report illustrate our partners' work to protect thousands of vulnerable people being detained unnecessarily in the UK, and to provide alternatives to indefinite detention.

Reference: Please see page 66 of this report.

Time4aLimit engaged parliamentarians and garnered public support – including a petition with over 100,000 signatures.



Dawoud, communications and media manager at IMiX, a London-based communications hub. “It helped the public to understand how grave the hostile environment is.” For instance, people without legal status in the UK cannot rent property, work, or send their children to school. In addition, they are detained, sometimes indefinitely, in one of seven detention centres around Britain.

That scandal, alongside the 2017 Panorama documentary, gave real traction to the advocacy efforts of our partners, prompting two influential Parliamentary Committees to undertake inquiries into immigration detention. Both criticised its indefinite nature and called for change. A former Prisons and Probation Ombudsman, Stephen Shaw, also condemned the UK immigration detention system as ‘dehumanising’. A public inquiry has now been launched into the mistreatment of detainees at Brook House.

Oak’s partners continue to work tirelessly at various levels to support people in indefinite detention. As well as providing comprehensive medical, legal and emotional support to individual detainees, they work to promote systemic change. Their efforts include: raising awareness of immigration detention and its effect

on detained individuals; litigating and advocating for a time limit; and promoting community-based alternatives to detention. Progress thus far has been encouraging.

In 2018, Time4aTimeLimit was launched with the aim of ending indefinite immigration detention in the UK. Liberty, an organisation that challenges injustice and defends people’s rights in the courts, took a lead role, among other organisations that Oak supports, including Amnesty. Time4aTimeLimit engaged parliamentarians across the board and garnered extensive public support – including a petition with over 100,000 signatures.

Shifting public perception and fostering empathy is fundamental in raising awareness among the public and garnering their support. IMiX is a communications hub dedicated to improving the quality and tone of public debate on immigration issues. It provides communications advice to the sector and engages with the media on the issue of immigration detention. “We think it’s important to focus on human stories to shift the public perception and foster empathy in people,” says Steffi Dawoud. “It’s important to listen to migrants’ stories and to be excited about what they can contribute to our societies

rather than what they might be taking out of the system. Because actually, all research shows that migrants and refugees end up contributing more than they take out of the system.”

“All research shows that migrants and refugees end up contributing more than they take out of the system.”

Steffi Dawoud

In addition, Oak’s partner organisation Bail for Immigration Detainees provides critical legal advice, representation and self-help materials to assist more than 5,000 detainees a year. It harnesses these first-hand experiences to advocate for policy change. The Helen Bamber Foundation provides holistic support and rehabilitation services to survivors of human rights abuses, including medical services, psychosocial support and a range of welfare services.

Medical Justice's research was critical to the introduction of a legislative amendment to limit the detention of pregnant women to 72 hours.



The impact of indefinite immigration detention on the mental and physical health of detainees, who have often already experienced serious trauma on their journeys to Europe, is profound. Medical Justice provides medical assistance to between 600 and 1,000 people in detention every year and gathers medical evidence in support of its efforts to end indefinite detention once and for all. Its research was critical to the introduction of a legislative amendment to limit the detention of pregnant women to 72 hours. "We have helped thousands of detainees access the healthcare they need and to get out of detention, and then eventually to get status," says Emma Ginn from Medical Justice.

Oak's grantee Detention Action has been critical in developing pilot alternatives to detention that focus on individual case resolution. For the last five years it has run a project in which

immigrants are placed in community care instead of detention, where they receive emotional and practical support. Nearly 95 per cent of project participants do not re-offend in terms of criminal acts. Similar pilot projects are being rolled out by Oak partners across Europe.

In addition, the collective efforts of our partners successfully garnered cross-party support for an amendment to the Immigration and Social Security Coordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill, which set out a 28-day time limit to immigration detention. The Bill in this form never came to a vote due to political upheaval in 2019. Our partners remain committed to seeking ways to implement the amendment's measures in the new parliament, and to securing a strict time limit to detention with robust judicial oversights.

We are proud to support our partners. Their collective impact extends beyond redress for thousands of vulnerable detainees to the reform of a harsh and unnecessary detention regime. Watch the video on our online annual report (due to be published in May 2020) to hear what some of our partners have to say about the subject. You can also read more about Oak's Programme strategy for the International Human Rights Programme on our website.

Caption, above: Communications hub IMIX trained the people in the photo as media spokespeople and experts by experience to share their own stories and speak to the press and media to promote Refugee Week.

Grants

Broadening human rights constituencies

Doc Society Ltd.

USD 400,000 (1 year)

To support documentary film post-production and impact work.

Fund For Global Human Rights

USD 300,000 (2 years)

To support a strategic communications hub for developing, testing and disseminating learning on new narratives in support of human rights.

IMiX Communications Hub

USD 250,000 (2 years)

To support the UK migration and refugee sector on communications.

London School of Economics

USD 100,000 (1 year)

To reduce political polarisation in Europe by rebutting divisive narratives and disinformation.

Media Zona

USD 500,000 (2 years)

To provide institutional support to the independent digital media platform Media Zona.

NEO Philanthropy

USD 100,000 (1 year)

To support the development of the Rights CoLab, a recently established open 'hub-platform' working to foster collaboration and innovation among experts across the fields of civil society, technology, business and finance.

Network of European Foundations

USD 751,705 (18 months)

To support civil society in Europe through three sub-grants to: Civitates – a European donor collaborative addressing shrinking civic space and public discourse; 444 – a leading, independent Hungarian news outlet; and PILnet – to provide pro bono legal services to civil society in Europe.

Núcleo Preservação da Memória

USD 250,000 (18 months)

To help establish a functioning, sustainable human rights museum and education centre in a former military court in central São Paulo.

Ending impunity

Center for Justice and International Law

USD 1,050,000 (3 years)

To contribute to the full enjoyment of human rights in the Americas.

Columbia University

USD 400,000 (3 years)

To increase the transparency and accountability of security forces globally by using publicly available data to monitor abuses and provide information for international criminal cases and advocacy.

European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR)

USD 1,022,727 (3 years)

To provide core support to ECCHR to hold perpetrators of serious human abuses to account through conventional or innovative legal means.



Independent Diplomat Ltd.

USD 200,000 (1 year)

To provide sustainability support to Independent Diplomat, a not-for-profit advisory group that provides advice on diplomatic strategy to secure redress for human rights abuses.

International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

USD 994,235 (3 years)

To assist FIDH member organisations to document international crimes and engage in strategic and innovative litigation through its Litigation Action Group.

Memorial Human Rights Centre

USD 250,000 (18 months)

To address needs related to the organisation's evaluation process and to provide unrestricted programme support for outreach and legal assistance in cases of arbitrary detention.

University of Oxford

USD 235,999 (2 years)

To conduct comparative research into the opportunities and challenges that the law of tort/delict provides for seeking remedies for those harmed by human rights abuses and for holding perpetrators of human rights abuses to account.

Freedom from arbitrary detention and torture

Anti-Discrimination Memorial Brussels

USD 522,500 (3 years)

To advocate for systemic changes in legislation and police practices related to the treatment of migrants and specifically of migrant children, stateless persons and other discriminated groups, to ensure better protection of their rights.

Caption above: Michael Darko was imprisoned for using someone else's ID to work, after having been denied the documents to work in the UK, his home since he was a young child. After having been held in immigration detention for two and a half years, he was eventually able to fight his case against the Home Office and was released. "To achieve targets, they have completely forgotten that they are dealing with human beings," he says.

Now he is free and studying at Birkbeck University, London. He says that his detention caused him a lot of harm and served no purpose. Michael is now a member of Freed Voices, a group of people who have been held in immigration detention who campaign against it, supported by our partner Detention Action. "If human rights are to mean anything then they must be applied universally," says Michael. "You cannot pick and choose who deserves them. Indefinite detention is indefensible in any circumstance. It's time for it to end."

Michael's case is not an isolated one – there are nearly 25,000¹ people locked up by the Home Office every year, including asylum seekers, children, elderly people, pregnant women and survivors of torture, trafficking and rape. They have no idea when they will be freed.

Watch the video of Michael here: <https://freedvoices.org/2019/11/20/michael-talks-about-how-he-ended-up-in-immigration-detention/>

Reference: Please see page 66 of this report.

Bail for Immigration Detainees

USD 230,769 (3 years)

To challenge immigration detention in the UK through the provision of legal advice, information and representation to people held in immigration detention.

Brazil Fund for Human Rights

USD 3,123,745 (2 years)

To support the work of the Brazil Fund for Human Rights in its efforts to promote respect for human rights in Brazil.

Bulgarian Helsinki Committee (BHC)

USD 587,500 (3 years)

To provide core support to the BHC in support of its efforts to improve respect for human rights in Bulgaria, with a particular focus upon the rights of individuals in closed institutions.

Detention Watch Network

USD 450,000 (3 years)

To support Detention Watch Network's collective advocacy, grassroots organising and strategic communications to reduce the current reliance on immigration detention in the United States.

European Council on Refugees and Exiles

USD 450,000 (3 years)

To support the work of the European Council on Refugees and Exiles, a Secretariat and network of over 100 not-for-profit organisations in 41 European countries working to protect and advance the rights of refugees, asylum-seekers and displaced persons.

Forum Brasileiro de Seguranca Publica

USD 483,840 (3 years)

To support research to improve institutional and social oversight of police functions in Brazil, particularly relating to the use of lethal force.

Global Detention Project

USD 250,000 (2 years)

To promote the human rights of detained asylum seekers, undocumented migrants and refugees.

Heartland Alliance

USD 1,200,000 (3 years)

To promote the human rights of immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers, particularly those deprived of their liberty in immigration detention.

Instituto Pro Bono

USD 210,000 (3 years)

To support the development of a pro bono legal sector in Brazil.

National Council for Civil Liberties (Liberty)

USD 600,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to Liberty to promote and build support for human rights among the public and policy makers in the UK and to ensure the protection and advancement of human rights standards in the UK's post-Brexit agenda.

NEO Philanthropy

USD 1,700,000 (3 years)

To support the work of the Four Freedoms Fund donor collaborative, including grant-making, convening and strategising, to build a more effective and connected United States immigrant rights field.

Network of European Foundations

USD 1,363,636 (3 years)

To enable the European Programme for Integration and Migration to support and strengthen civil society organisations active on migration and integration issues at the European level.

Public Verdict Foundation

USD 620,000 (3 years)

To build on the momentum of unprecedented public attention to the practice of torture by law enforcement officers in Russia and to push for immediate and long-term measures to eradicate this practice.

LGBTQI

All Out

USD 250,000 (3 years)

To build an online global movement to make political, legal and cultural interventions for the equality of LGBTQI people.

Community Initiatives

USD 300,000 (3 years)

To increase the number of funders and the amount of funding available across sectors to support LGBTQI issues globally.

OutRight Action International

USD 900,000 (2 years)

To advance development of LGBTQI rights at the UN, and minimise violence directed towards Caribbean LGBTQI groups through advocacy, research and capacity building training.

Parliamentarians for Global Action

USD 575,000 (3 years)

To mobilise and amplify influential parliamentary voices supporting the enactment of anti-discrimination legislation and the repeal of laws criminalising same-sex relationships.

UHAI EASHRI

USD 100,000 (1 year)

To support organising for and by Eastern Africa sexual and gender minorities by providing flexible, equitable, and accessible grants and capacity support.

Supporting and protecting human rights defenders

Front Line

USD 681,818 (3 years)

To provide direct assistance to human rights defenders at risk worldwide through: emergency support grants; capacity building training; external support; and campaigns.

Institute for Law and Public Policy

USD 250,000 (18 months)

To equip the professional community of lawyers and human rights activists with critical knowledge and skills to achieve better results when litigating before the Russian Constitutional Court, the European Court of Human Rights and using other UN human rights mechanisms.



Instituto Vladimir Herzog

USD 200,000 (18 months)

To strengthen human rights values in Brazil through the pursuit of memory, truth and justice as recommended by the Brazilian Truth Commission.

Open Briefing

USD 192,308 (1 year)

To support at-risk human rights activists and organisations regarding their physical safety, digital security and psychological wellbeing.

Privacy International

USD 1,010,256 (3 years)

To provide core support to Privacy International to implement its new strategic plan to challenge the improper use of data and surveillance.

Search for Common Ground

USD 249,672 (1 year)

To reduce the polarising effect of social media in Myanmar's Rakhine State and equip citizens to be more resistant to disinformation campaigns and manipulation of inter-communal tensions.

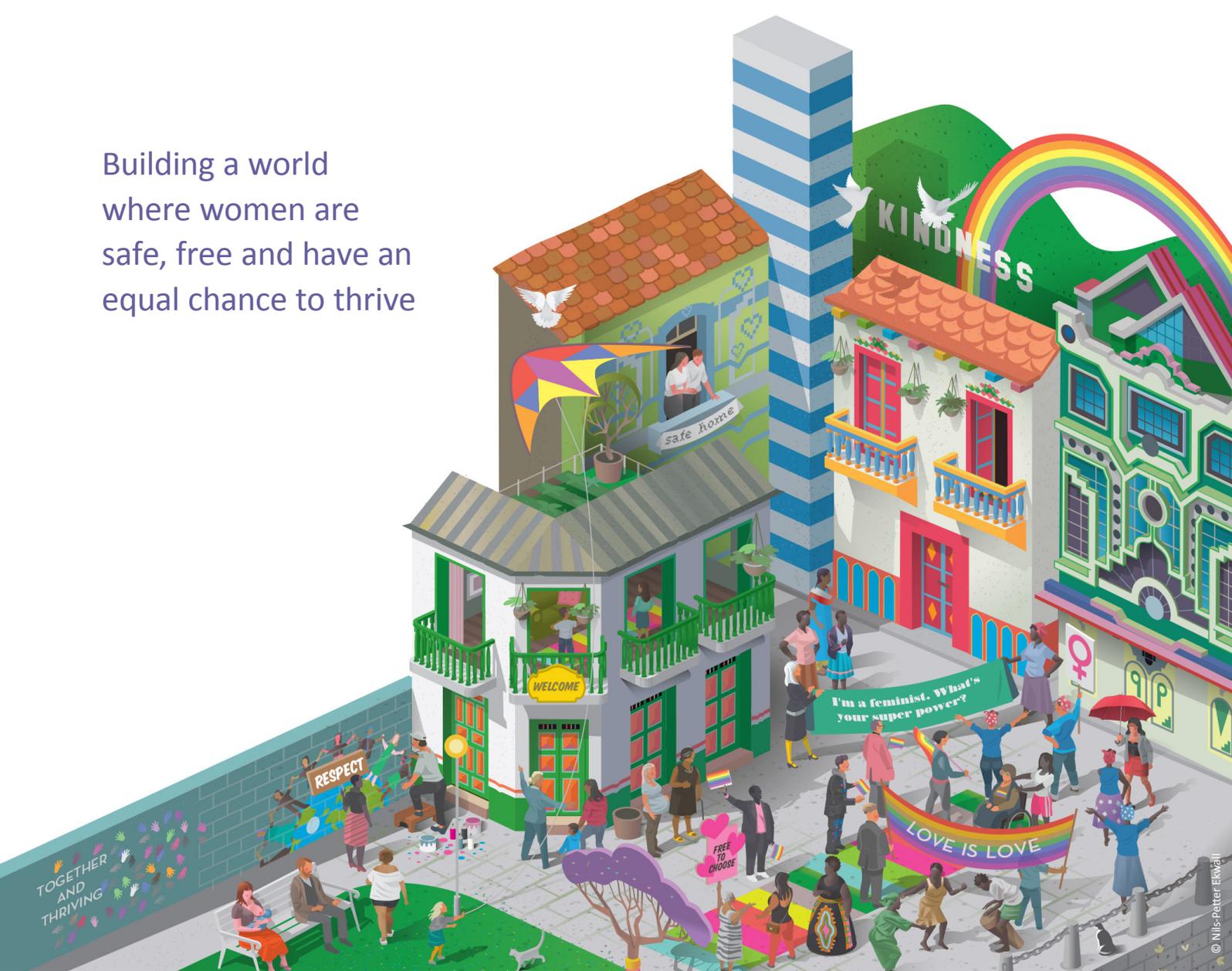
WITNESS, Inc.

USD 1,204,200 (3 years)

To support the implementation of WITNESS' new strategy and strengthen its global work.



Building a world
where women are
safe, free and have an
equal chance to thrive



Issues Affecting Women

The Issues Affecting Women Programme (IAWP) provides flexible, longterm support and capacity development support to women-led, rights-based organisations worldwide.

The IAWP has been funding women's rights organisations in the UK since 2005. We support organisations working with women who have experienced domestic and sexual violence and organisations focused on ending labour exploitation.

In 2019, we spent time listening to our partners, stakeholders and Trustees to ensure that our grant-making

remains relevant and impactful. This led us to develop a new grant-making strategy for our UK portfolio, which is the blueprint for our decision-making there over the next five years.

We support women-led organisations that: empower women to fully and equally participate in society; and adopt a holistic approach, taking into consideration various contexts and cultures, and addressing root causes. **We believe that strong women's movements are key to creating and sustaining social, cultural and political change.** The story on the following pages, focused on our UK-based partners, exemplifies our efforts.

Dreaming of a different world

“I do this work because I believe it is possible to end violence against women and girls,” says Marai Larasi, UK-based community organiser around women’s rights. “Sometimes people say, ‘but, it will always be here’. If my ancestors had said ‘slavery would always be here’, I wouldn’t be here right now. So, I come from the context of ‘you dream and then you create’. And for me, I dream a different world, and right now, it feels like a really important time to say ‘let’s create a step change around what we do, specifically around black women and girls, minoritised women and girls.’”

Austerity measures were introduced in the UK in 2008, resulting in severe funding shortages. Local councils’ spending on services fell by 24 per cent between 2009-2010 and 2017-2018.¹ This has placed pressure on civil society organisations, many of whom have tried to step into the funding gap. The cuts have been particularly damaging for organisations supporting Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) populations. Between 2009 and 2016, BME services in London had 50 per cent of their council funding withdrawn.² IAWP partner Imkaan’s insightful 2018 report *From Survival to Sustainability*³ demonstrates the disproportionate levels of cuts imposed upon BME women’s organisations.

The Imkaan report also considers the impact of the 2011 changes to the national shelter commissioning processes. These resulted in women’s organisations being forced to compete for funding alongside generic housing providers. The majority of women’s organisations simply do not have the capacity to provide competitive bids, and all too often, their added value, including the range of holistic services they offer and the relationship of trust they have with their local community,

is ignored. This leads to a poorer quality of shelter provision and frequently results in the women’s organisations being forced to close, unable to sustain their services without the housing allowance attached to shelters. For example, in 2019, the London Black Women’s Project, which has run refuges in East London for 32 years, risked closure, as the tender was handed to a large non-specialist provider. As of 2020, this decision is being challenged.

“If my ancestors had said, ‘slavery would always be here’, I wouldn’t be here right now.”

Marai Larasi

Another problem is the disproportionately high costs of accommodation throughout much of the UK. In 1997, the average house price was 3.5 times the average annual salary. By 2017, it had risen to nearly eight times the average salary, and, in London, it rose to over ten times. With people unable to buy



Caption: The photos throughout this section of the report illustrate our partners’ work to strengthen a movement that raises the voices of all women, including those who are marginalised on the basis of their ethnicity.

References: Please see page 66 of this report.

Million Women Rise is a women-only movement that is led by black women for all women. The movement demands an end to violence against women and girls.



property and more turning to renting, it is predicted that over a quarter of households will be privately renting by the end of 2021.⁴ The rights of house owners in the UK in regard to their homes are far more robust than those who rent. Housing affordability, insecurity and safety are emerging as key factors which deter women from leaving violent situations, and the lack of refuge support increases this vulnerability. This situation is impacting BME women the most.

“When black and minoritised women talk about their experience of violence, they are not believed,” says Baljit Banga, executive director of Imkaan, which works to address violence against black and minoritised women and girls. “They are told, ‘well, you are only coming here because you need housing’. A lot of them are told, ‘well, that’s a part of your culture’. What’s wrong with these types of responses that black and minoritised women receive from housing authorities is that the

perpetrators told them this anyway. The perpetrators told them, ‘well, if you report, no one is going to believe you’. They will tell you this is part of your culture.”

“When black and minoritised women talk about their experience of violence, they are not believed.”

Baljit Banga

Additionally, in 2013, the government began rolling out Universal Credit (UC), which was intended to simplify the welfare system by combining means-tested benefits and tax credits into a monthly payment. However, many people were unable to access the benefits that they depended on, and a recent report reveals that in 2019, 1.9 million people were likely

to lose at least GBP 1,000 a year.⁵ These people are mostly the ‘persistently poor’⁶ as well as those who are disabled, and people who have a low income from flexible or self-employed work. This demographic includes women working around unpaid care obligations. A lack of access to and a reduced income through UC reduces financial independence for women and increases their vulnerability.

Then, in 2016, the UK voted to leave the European Union, creating more unanswered questions. While this referendum had multiple drivers, the outcome has resulted in: division within society; increased insecurity for non-British residents; increased racism and prejudice against BME people; and a rise of hate crimes. A 2019 survey recorded 71 per cent of minority ethnic people reporting racial discrimination, compared with 58 per cent before the vote to leave.⁷

How we see the future of feminism in the UK

Our bold new strategy prioritises work that questions traditional philanthropic dynamics.

While it is tempting to support the vital services needed by women facing violence every day, Oak's wish as a donor is to balance this need with funding systemic change that protects the fundamental rights of women. We also see the need to strengthen an inclusive women's movement. Supporting grassroots and young organisations, particularly those led by BME women, is also needed.

In 2018, 12 per cent of women aged 18 to 24 associated themselves with the term "feminist". By 2019, this figure had risen to 67 per cent.⁸ This is the future of feminism and the individuals running these organisations are

leaders. It is now time to build on this momentum.

We believe that this strategy will fulfil this vision through flexible, responsive funding that trust women as the experts of their realities in the UK. In the next five years, our grant-making in the UK will be guided by the following core principles:

1. Create a BME Women's Fund.

A small team of women, led by respected community organiser Marai Larasi, are meeting and thinking with women across the country to design a blueprint for the first ever BME Women's Fund in the UK. The Issues Affecting Women Programme is sharing the idea with other donors, and advocating for more and better resources to reach BME women service providers, organisers and activists.

2. Work at the intersection of safe housing, service provision and violence response.

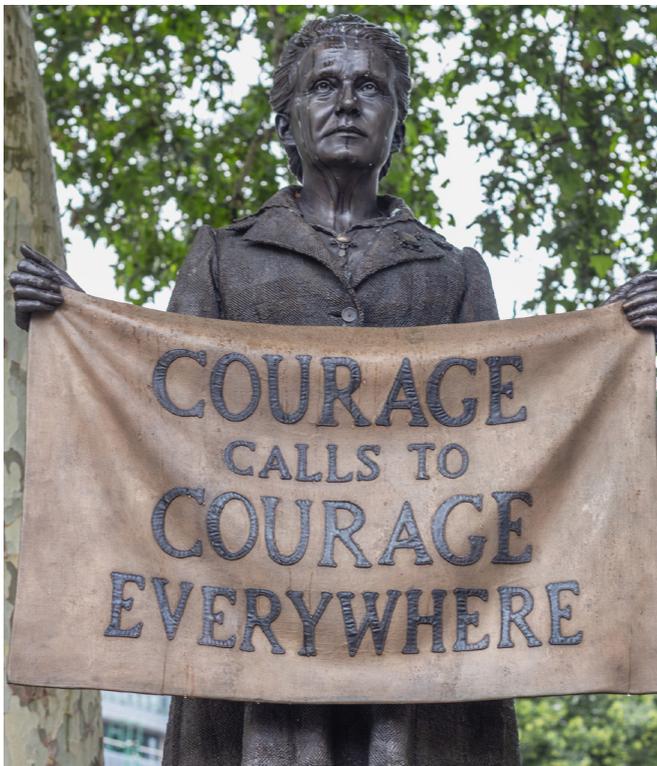
A legal defence fund will provide resources for strategic litigation against decisions to cut funding to specialist BME organisations. We will explore how the women's rights movement can build collective community assets, enabling organisations to present competitive bids and reduce their reliance on statutory funding.

3. Oppose the backlash.

There is an increased global backlash against women's rights. Civil society needs to be able to expose and oppose narratives of hate and oppression. We will support work that advocates for rights to be upheld through robust strategic communication and legal frameworks.

4. Fund movement-building activities.

Movements are the key to enabling women to enjoy their full and equal human rights. The UK women's movements have a long history of resistance and we will continue our support to harness this extraordinary energy by funding intersectional movement building and community organising.



Grants

Animus Association Foundation

USD 300,000 (3 years)

To support Animus Association to protect the rights of women and children who have experienced violence in Bulgaria.

Antenna MayDay

USD 227,822 (3 years)

To support the launch of a new anti-trafficking helpline in the Canton of Ticino in Switzerland.

Ashiana Network

USD 430,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to the Ashiana Network working in the United Kingdom.

Association des Mediatrices Interculturelles (AMIC)

USD 100,000 (1 year)

To strengthen the organisational development of AMIC, based in Geneva, Switzerland, so that it becomes a solid resource for women, youth refugees and migrants.

Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)

USD 800,000 (4 years)

To provide core support to AWID, enabling it to continue to be a driving force in strengthening feminist movements for collective action.

Common Threads

USD 250,000 (3 years)

To provide a path for comprehensive psychological recovery for women and girls who are survivors of sexual violence during war, conflict, displacement and its aftermath.

Community Initiatives

USD 100,000 (1 year)

To support Global Philanthropy Project to bring philanthropic and development actors together to promote inclusive societies.

Fonds pour les Femmes Congolaises (FFC)

USD 1,000,000 (5 years)

To provide core support to FFC, a women's fund and women's movement builder, based in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

FRIDA – The Young Feminist Fund

USD 750,000 (5 years)

To provide core support to FRIDA – The Young Feminist Fund to enable it to provide accessible and strategic funding for young feminist-led initiatives.

Global Fund for Women

USD 950,000 (3 years)

To support the Global Fund for Women to support and strengthen women's groups, funds and movements through grant-making, technical support, convening, supporting mobilisation and learning.

Hispanics in Philanthropy

USD 5,752,200 (3 years)

To administer and expand the Issues Affecting Women Programme's Mexico portfolio of grants working on migration, exploitation, trafficking and violence against women.

Imkaan

USD 250,000 (1 year)

To support Imkaan to address institutional discrimination against women and girls of colour by UK local authorities.

Imkaan

USD 100,000 (8 months)

To help shape and create a fund and build a community of women, marginalised on the basis of their ethnicity in the UK.

International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC)

USD 450,000 (3 years)

To support the IWHC to promote the health and rights of women and young people, particularly adolescent girls in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

L'Associazione Orlando

USD 42,500 (2 months)

To support women's rights organisations in Italy.

Medical Research Council of South Africa

USD 100,000 (8 months)

To enable experts in the field of psychological violence, survivors of violence and Oak partners to attend the Sexual Violence Research Initiative Forum in 2019 and take part in a convening with the Issues Affecting Women Programme team to develop the psychological violence grant-making strategy.

Semillas

USD 750,000 (5 years)

To provide core support to Fondo Semillas, enabling it to strengthen the Mexican feminist movement by increasing the skills and resources available to women's rights organisations.

Solidarité Féminine pour la Paix et le Développement Intégral

USD 1,000,000 (4 years)

To provide core support to assist women and girl victims of sexual violence in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Surviving Economic Abuse

USD 210,000 (3 years)

To enable Surviving Economic Abuse, based in the United Kingdom, to raise awareness of economic abuse and build the capacity of those who come into contact with victims and survivors to respond.

Swiss Philanthropy Foundation

USD 1,118,000 (3 years)

To support women's funds in Bulgaria, Spain, Poland and Ukraine that provide resources, capacity building and support to strengthen women's organisations in their regions and in Latin America.

Swiss Philanthropy Foundation

USD 770,000 (16 months)

To support four key organisations that are working to end violence against women in Moldova.

Terre des Femmes Switzerland

USD 303,030 (3 years)

To provide core support to Terre des Femmes to support victims of domestic violence living in Bern, Switzerland.

Urgent Action Fund of Latin America

USD 1,200,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to the Urgent Action Fund Consortium to strengthen the visibility, voice, ability, resilience and impact of women's rights defenders around the world.

WinVisible

USD 282,051 (4 years)

To provide core support to WinVisible so that it achieves its strategic aims.

Women in Dialogue

USD 450,000 (5 years)

To provide core support to Women Against Rape, who support survivors of rape and domestic violence across the United Kingdom to seek justice.

Women Win

USD 300,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to Women Win and contribute to the strengthening of its organisation, particularly through a new feminist sports initiative.

Women's Fund Asia

USD 600,000 (3 years)

To strengthen women-led interventions for the realisation of human rights agendas in Asia.

Worker Rights Consortium

USD 670,000 (2 years)

To support garment factory workers in Central America to combat violations of their rights and advance their efforts to achieve better wages and working conditions, and secure respect and fair treatment in the workplace.



Unlocking the
creativity and
power of every
young person



| Learning Differences

We believe that a better future and a good education are linked and that educated citizens contribute to healthier and more vibrant communities. Appreciating the value of education, **our fundamental sense of justice demands that every child has the chance to develop skills and knowledge to realise his or her potential.**

The Learning Differences Programme promotes more equitable educational experiences to bring about better outcomes for every student, particularly those who learn differently. We focus on three areas of partnership and

investment that provide assistance and support to unlock the potential of all students. These are:

- building knowledge and understanding of what works best for diverse learners;
- translating knowledge into practice to build more equitable learning environments and student experiences; and
- influencing systems to embrace and adopt enabling conditions necessary for schools to meet the needs of students furthest from opportunity.

Bringing educational opportunities to North Carolina

There is a growing awareness among teachers in North Carolina that a “one-size-fits-all” approach to teaching will not prepare students for success in school and in life. This is thanks, in part, to the work of EdNC, an online, daily, independent newspaper that works to expand educational opportunities for all children in North Carolina, increase their academic attainment, and improve the performance of the state’s public schools. EdNC elevates stories, tools and resources that equip teachers, principals and other education leaders to better understand and meet the diverse and unique learning needs of their students.

Rupen Fofaria is a reporter and storyteller who writes for EdNC. “The work is very personal to me,” he says. “I’m a person with learning differences ... and I remember very well what it was like at school. It feels like even when you are paying attention, you still can’t grasp concepts, and that’s a very scary and lonely place.”

By reporting on the experiences that students with learning differences have and what teachers can do to better support these students, EdNC seeks to raise awareness of the solutions available in North Carolina. “We really get into the classrooms and see what special education, as well as the broader context of learning differences, looks like in schools,” says Rupen. “There’s a vast amount of information from data, research and best practices that’s been produced nationally and state-wide that doesn’t always find its way to the teachers. I want to present that to teachers so that they can better reach their students.”

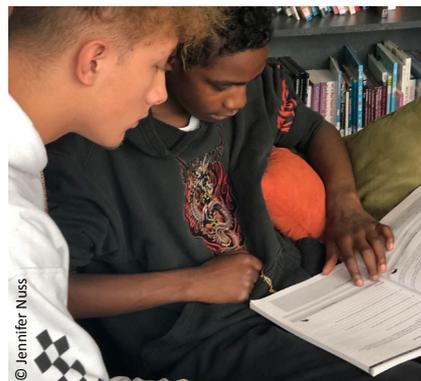
When asked about his experiences at school, Rupen says, “I remember being afraid to say anything about the challenges I faced. It wasn’t that I had been taught a concept and I couldn’t get it to work, it was that I just didn’t

understand what they were saying, and I didn’t want to sound stupid.” Through his reporting work at EdNC, Rupen hopes to reach teachers and students and remind them, that though people’s brains are wired differently, it’s something to be celebrated, not shunned.

EdNC highlights where students with learning differences are succeeding well, and which schools are getting teaching methods right. EdNC also reports on challenges schools across the state of North Carolina are facing, and seeks to educate and inform policy-makers so that their efforts are supportive of the needs of all students, including those with learning differences. “At EdNC, we’re widely read among policy makers. We’re confident that we’re going to be read by the legislators who care about education, by the state board, by people who can make a difference to state policy,” says Rupen.

“We’re confident that we’re going to be read by people who can make a difference to state policy.”

Rupen Fofaria



Caption: The photos throughout this section of the report illustrate our grantees’ work to strengthen an inclusive education system in North Carolina that equips every child to be happy, contributing to society and successful in life.

Advancing educational equity

For too many students, the environments in which they learn do not support their success. The approach that many schools apply to teaching and learning can be particularly limiting for students who do not conform to the “average”.

“The Learning Differences Programme is excited to support the launch of a learning and action network in North Carolina. It will help make schools more engaging and inclusive for students from all backgrounds, particularly students with learning differences who experience additional adversity due to poverty and/or racism,” says LDP director, Heather Graham.

MDC is a not-for-profit organisation that works to advance economic mobility for people on the margins in the southern United States. As David Dodson, president of MDC describes, this is because “people who have not been well-served by society historically have often been communities of colour. Because of the legacy of slavery and the subsequent years of intentional disinvestment in communities of colour, we are now living with the consequences of that history of disinvestment.” Based in Durham, North Carolina, a fundamental part of MDC’s work involves eliminating structural racism and removing barriers to opportunity for low-income communities and people of colour in all systems, including the education system.

MDC is building a learning and action network that will support up to eight organisations working at the intersection of education, learning differences and equity across North Carolina. The network, Learning for Equity: A Network for Solutions, or LENS-NC, will meet regularly to learn from one another on how to address common challenges. It will explore opportunities that make positive changes at classroom, school, community, district and state levels. MDC considers this work essential to building the culture and systems necessary to stamp out inequity in the education system, so that people and communities across North Carolina who have been traditionally disenfranchised through policy and practice can more easily connect to opportunity.

“We have a broad understanding of the educational and economical challenges facing young people in North Carolina, and that comes from decades of work in this region,” says Julie Mooney, senior programme director at MDC. “We also have a lot of hands-on experience in helping to support diverse groups of community leaders knit together new approaches to changing policy and practice. That has put us up-close and personal with the complexity and the difficulty of making hard changes within organisations and communities.”



MDC is working to build the culture and systems necessary to stamp out inequity in the education system.



Ultimately, MDC seeks to support partners who will create learning environments where marginalised students with learning differences thrive. Some of the learning that MDC’s network will focus on includes:

- understanding how to combat structural racism within the education system, with a focus on the identification and support systems for students with learning differences;
- providing support to marginalised students with learning differences and their families;
- increasing understanding among teachers of equitable practices and learning environments that address bias and promote cultural responsiveness in the classroom;
- influencing systems to embrace and adopt policies and practices necessary for schools to reduce race and income disparities in educational outcomes among students with learning differences; and
- elevating the voices of students and families affected by structural racism to advocate for changes to practice, policy, and systems that improve opportunities for marginalised students with learning differences.

Stephanie Walker is the programme director for this project at MDC. “The vision for this work is to make a difference in the lives of children with learning challenges in North Carolina who are have been marginalised because of race and poverty,” she says. “Children who have been told they can’t succeed can have hope in the work of the network to seek solutions to address some of the barriers they encounter.”

MDC believes that educational opportunities must address the history of racial exclusion in order to build the kind of systems that are going to equip every child to be happy, contribute to society and be successful. “Every human being deserves a rich opportunity to succeed – that’s fundamental,” says David Dodson. “If we are to have

healthy communities and a strong economy, people have to be equipped to contribute, and they have to believe that they belong, and they have an inherent role in shaping the future wellbeing of the society.”

MDC’s work at the intersection of learning differences, educational success and racial inequity is deeply aligned to its mission. By bringing together groups working on the various issues, MDC hopes to break down silos and support them to think about their work from another perspective, whether it’s practice, policy or research. “This is changing what history has dealt us and showing that there can be a different way,” says David.

“This is changing what history has dealt us and showing that there can be a different way.”

David Dodson

EdNC will be sharing stories from the MDC network with teachers and education leaders across the state to highlight the learning. Oak Foundation supports the work of EdNC and MDC as they strive to raise awareness of what is needed to reach children in North Carolina with learning differences, particularly those who are furthest from opportunity due to structural racism and poverty, and to bring about social change to this end.

We hope that these initiatives will support all children to have access to educational opportunities that enable them to thrive in life. To find out more, check out our online annual report to watch the video!

Grants

Aga Khan Foundation

USD 3,000,000 (3 years)

To support the launch of Schools2030, a 10-year action research project that will collaborate with 1,000 schools in ten countries around the world.

Boston Children's Hospital

USD 100,000 (1 year)

To develop an app, designed as an interactive and engaging game to screen for early indicators of literacy challenges.

Center for Curriculum Redesign

USD 510,000 (2 years)

To unlock the potential of all learners, especially those with learning differences.

Editorial Projects in Education (EPE)

USD 600,000 (3 years)

To provide support to EPE, the independent, not-for-profit publisher of Education Week, to raise awareness and understanding of critical issues facing American schools.

Education First

USD 189,660 (6 months)

To explore opportunities for improving reading instruction through teacher preparation and other key levers, and to share this learning to inform education policy and practice.

Eye to Eye National, Inc.

USD 1,250,000 (5 years)

To provide core support to Eye to Eye, an organisation that empowers young adults with learning disabilities to mentor younger students with learning disabilities.

Fana Association for Individuals with Learning and Communication Difficulties

USD 250,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to Fana Association for Children with Learning and Communication Difficulties in Ethiopia.

Hill Center Inc

USD 700,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to Hill Learning Center in Durham, North Carolina, a learning hub for equitable research-based practices that support students with learning differences.

Insights for Education Foundation

USD 1,000,000 (3 years)

To accelerate the spread of good practices in education systems globally and overcome inequity in education.

James B. Hunt, Jr. Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy Foundation, Inc.

USD 250,000 (2 years)

To work with current and future political leaders to build their understanding of the disproportionate impact that learning differences have on disadvantaged students, and to connect policy-makers with actionable policy options to address these effects.

Lesley University

USD 731,595 (4 years)

To support school districts and educators to create supportive schools for thousands of children who struggle to learn because of traumatic experiences.

Made By Dyslexia

USD 352,564 (2 years)

To provide core support to Made by Dyslexia, a global charity that works to help the world properly understand, value and support dyslexia.

MDC Inc.

USD 1,225,000 (2 years)

To identify, develop and build a learning network among not-for-profit organisations in North Carolina, in partnership with the Learning Differences Programme.

MENTOR

USD 150,000 (1 year)

To provide 12 young people with the opportunity to participate in a year-long course that will help them promote improved systems that address injustice and inequity.

Nisai Education Trust

USD 199,994 (2 years)

To create a new iteration of 'Units of Sound' an online service that helps struggling readers.

Populace, Inc.

USD 1,000,000 (2 years)

To provide core support to Populace to change the US cultural narrative to reflect a fulfilment-based vision of success.



PowerMyLearning

USD 250,000 (1 year)

To provide core support for the development and expansion of Family Playlists, a tool to build the learning relationships between students, teachers and families in the United States.

President & Fellows of Harvard College

USD 750,000 (2 years)

To support the Education Redesign Lab to develop and implement plans that capture the full range of strengths and needs of children and youth.

Roadtrip Nation

USD 400,000 (3 years)

To support Roadtrip Nation in launching a documentary film that features three young people who will interview professionals from diverse backgrounds, including those who learn differently.

Seattle Foundation

USD 1,000,005 (3 years)

To support a three-year project to develop tools, resources and guidance that redesign learning experiences and opportunities to achieve equitable experiences and outcomes for all youth.

Teach For All

USD 2,100,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to Teach For All to increase and expand educational opportunities for marginalised students around the world.

The Aspen Institute

USD 500,000 (2 years)

To support the Aspen Institute's Education & Society Program, based in the US, to develop an expanded vision for student success.

The Aspen Institute

USD 811,958 (3 years)

To support the Aspen Young Leaders Fellowship to identify, cultivate and amplify young leaders to engage in values-based leadership, which is essential for transforming their lives and society for the better.

University of Connecticut

USD 769,578 (3 years)

To support Dr. Fumiko Hoeft's research team at the University of Connecticut and the brainLENS laboratory as well as Dr. Devin Kearns and Stephanie Haft to conduct studies.

Village of Wisdom

USD 100,000 (6 months)

To support the Village of Wisdom to conduct a survey in Durham, North Carolina from a racial equity perspective, on behalf of students of colour with learning and attention issues.

Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence

USD 249,902 (2 years)

To support the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence and EdTogether to evaluate The RULER Approach, which emphasises an emotional intelligence approach in teaching and social-emotional learning.



Prevent Child Sexual Abuse

Our societies have the responsibility to help children thrive. Yet millions of children around the world are sexually abused, and the effects are often devastating and long-lasting. Thankfully, we are seeing new openings for change. Survivors and advocates are breaking through the culture of silence to call for justice. Governments and private institutions have begun to accept that they can and should do more. And researchers and practitioners are showing that prevention is possible.

We believe that children everywhere deserve a positive future: the chance to grow and learn in safety – free from the threat of sexual abuse.

One of our sub-Programmes, Solutions and Advancing Action, aims to make the case for broad action **by building evidence of what works and by supporting solutions that can be brought to scale to reduce child sexual abuse and exploitation.** This is the focus of this year's article.

Stamping out child sexual abuse

When Iain Drennan joined the United Kingdom's Home Office in 2014, his unit was small – just four people – but the task at hand was huge. They were to ramp up the country's response to child sexual abuse amid a growing crisis. For four years, a stream of news had revealed that high-profile entertainers and sports figures had been sexually abusing children, some over the course of decades, yet had not been brought to justice.

In the initial stages, some children's accounts of sexual exploitation weren't believed, but public outrage grew as more victims and survivors came forward. The rising number of reported crimes strained the capabilities of law enforcement and victim care services.

"There was a major push from within the UK Government to really grip the issue," says Iain. In the past five years, his unit has grown from 4 to nearly 50 staff as they helped transform the country's efforts to protect children from sexual abuse. The government invested in police, quality medical and therapeutic care for victims, and fighting online child sexual exploitation. They also worked with technology companies, civil society and communities. As a result of this push, the UK ranked first out of 60 countries on the 2019 *Out of the Shadows* index.

Developed by the Economist Intelligence Unit, with support from Oak and the World Childhood and Carlson Family foundations, the *Out of the Shadows* index assesses how child sexual abuse and exploitation are being prioritised at the national level. The index examines: a country's legal framework to protect children; the government's commitment and capacity to respond; and how civil society, industry and the media are tackling the problem. It also looks

at less obvious factors that can hinder or promote change. Katherine Stewart, the Economist Intelligence Unit's lead researcher on the index, explains: "It looks at the environment in which abuse happens, from educating students and parents, to understanding gender and cultural norms that might exacerbate risks."

While the countries that performed best on the index were those with more resources, like the UK and Sweden, countries with fewer resources, like Peru and India, were not too far behind. In prioritising next steps, countries can look at how they scored on each of the index's 36 indicators and decide what makes sense to tackle next, for instance, collecting prevalence data or engaging the media. "Our goal in this country-level exercise is to highlight the gaps in the systems to think about how we can develop solutions," says Katherine Stewart.

This emphasis on solutions is a departure from how the issue of child sexual abuse has long been viewed – a hidden harm of which little is known, and not much can be done. However, according to practitioners and researchers with experience in preventing sexual violence against children, two things have changed over the past decade or so. First is a better sense of the nature and extent of the problem through



Caption: The photos throughout this section of the report illustrate the efforts of our grantees to bring to scale solutions to reduce child sexual abuse and exploitation.

Download *What Works to Prevent Violence against Children* here: www.togetherforgirls.org/svsolutions.

A decade of piloting and implementing programmes around the world has shown that sexual violence against children can be reduced and prevented.



research and national surveys on violence against children. Second is that a decade of piloting and implementing programmes around the world has shown that it is possible to reduce and prevent sexual violence against children.

Those who have helped bring about these changes are in some ways living in a new reality in which the problem, though still enormous, can be solved. But this news has yet to reach many. “If you look at the general public and decision makers there’s still a lot of pessimism, and not a lot of hope and knowledge for those looking to make a difference in the lives of children,” says Daniela Ligiero, the CEO of Together for Girls, an organisation that works to raise awareness, promote evidence-based solutions and galvanise coordinated action across sectors to end violence against boys and girls. “We’ve been focused on the extent of the problem, and we need to really shift the narrative.” Her message: “It doesn’t have to be this way.”

To underscore this conviction, Together for Girls released a comprehensive review called *What Works to Prevent Sexual Violence against Children*. The solutions range from what can be done in schools,

to what parents can do, and how governments can implement child protection systems. The review prioritises interventions that work in low and middle-income countries. “Certain kinds of laws, such as extending statutes of limitation for survivors, making sure certain acts are criminalised, or safeguarding children – whether it’s in the context of youth-serving organisations or sports, turn out to be really important,” says Daniela. “Helping kids understand their rights makes a difference. Parenting programmes also came out as important in terms of prevention.”

“Parenting programmes came out as important in terms of prevention.”

Daniela Ligiero

In addition to reviewing the evidence for the interventions, *What Works* offers “expert takes” from groundbreaking researchers and case studies in which governments and communities implemented these interventions. Together for Girls designed the evidence review as a tool to be used by anyone looking

to take action to prevent child sexual abuse. What also emerges from the pages is a portrait of a growing network of dozens of experts, researchers and practitioners in communities around the world. They know from experience and evidence that child sexual abuse can be prevented – and they are committed to making this goal a reality.

The solutions track nicely to the *Out of the Shadows* index, which Daniela sees as an important piece of the puzzle. “These three pieces together – understanding what the prevalence is, what countries are doing to respond to that, and what is the evidence, what works – together this has the potential to move our field to a whole new level,” she says.

The three pieces are in action in Uganda, which published its first violence against children survey with the Centers for Disease Control in 2018. Lydia Wasula, who is with Uganda’s Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, says the survey found that 35 per cent of girls and 17 per cent of boys have been sexually abused. This prevalence data, along with other findings, helped shape their response. “We are using the report to inform the first-ever

“It doesn’t
have to be
this way.”

child policy for Uganda, and its accompanying action plan,” says Lydia.

Many of the solutions that Uganda is implementing are reviewed in *What Works*, including an education programme called Coaching Boys Into Men, and another called SASA!, which reduces sexual violence by advancing more positive gender norms. Six districts, including Kampala, have implemented No Means No, a training programme that resulted in a 50 per cent drop in violence among youth who took part in its pilot project in neighbouring Kenya. Lydia Wasula sees the *Out of the Shadows* index as a useful comparison with other countries. “What is the level of progress in the other country and what are the best practices we can pick from?”

Meanwhile, the UK looked to Sweden and Iceland for the model “one-stop shop” (also reviewed in *What Works*), in which victims can get support from the police and receive medical and therapeutic care in the same place. In October

2018, a facility in north London, called the Lighthouse, opened to help children and young people in their recovery from sexual abuse or exploitation. It has seen a threefold increase in referrals since then. “One in two young people in that area are now offered health and care support after reporting sexual offences, compared with one in four in 2015,” says Iain Drennan. “We can see what works elsewhere, what we can adopt in our own context. We can adapt that, and the results are already coming through.”

The UK Home Office is also tackling online child sexual abuse at the global level. Levels of child abuse material have skyrocketed, with the number of images having doubled from 2017 to 2018. Iain and his team have been instrumental in the work of the WeProtect Global Alliance of 90 countries, 22 technology companies and 26 civil society organisations. Their work, which is reviewed in *What Works*, includes national response guidelines.

“Now, we are able to
shine a light into some
of those dark places.”

Iain Drennan

The path forward could easily seem daunting, but Iain doesn’t see it this way. “What gives me most hope is speaking to people who are engaged on the frontline of this issue, particularly those who are working with victims and survivors, and victims and survivors themselves,” he says. “There was a time in history where this issue was swept under the carpet. And now we are able to shine a light into some of those dark places.”



Grants

Accountability and ending impunity

CHILD USA

USD 750,000 (3 years)

To prevent child sexual abuse in elite sport in the US and beyond.

FrameWorks Institute

USD 440,000 (3 years)

To help shift cultural paradigms around young, elite athletes in the US by reframing the public discourse around child sexual abuse and keeping children safer.

Human Rights Watch

USD 745,000 (2 years)

To support the Sports and Rights Initiative to end human rights abuses accompanying mega-sporting events such as the Olympics and the World Cup.

Institute for Human Rights and Business

USD 188,727 (1 year)

To enable the Centre for Sports and Human Rights to convene prospective host cities for the 2026 FIFA World Cup for the purposes of sharing best practice with respect to protecting, safeguarding and enabling the participation of children when hosting a mega-sporting event.

UNICEF - UK

USD 499,472 (3 years)

To support UNICEF UK to safeguard and promote the rights of children connected to sport.

Solutions and advancing action

All Survivors Project (ASP)

USD 460,000 (3 years)

To strengthen ASP's organisational capacity to improve global responses for every survivor of sexual violence, including men and boys, in situations of armed conflict and forced displacement.



Centre on Gender Equity and Health at the University of California

USD 500,000 (18 months)

To scale up the Responsible Engaged and Loving Fathers Initiative through integration into early childhood development programmes across Northern Uganda and Karamoja Region.

Child Resilience Alliance, Inc.

USD 699,997 (3 years)

To develop, test and gain support for community-led approaches that have helped prevent sexual violence against children in Kenya and Sierra Leone.

International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University Rotterdam

USD 100,000 (1 year)

To design and implement youth-centred advocacy and dissemination activities in Tanzania and Bulgaria.

Le 2e observatoire

USD 253,333 (2 years)

To challenge the gender stereotypes in attitudes and practices of early childcare professionals and primary school teachers and provide them with guidelines to interact in a gender-neutral way with young children.

Management Systems International (MSI)

USD 249,734 (2 years)

To provide support to MSI to help the Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Programme's partners with their plans for scaling up their programmes and projects.

New Venture Fund

USD 1,500,000 (1 year)

To expand efforts to translate the Economist Intelligence Unit Index (Out of the Shadows) in response to child sexual abuse into action at national and regional levels.

Sesame Workshop

USD 500,000 (14 months)

To promote the increased engagement of male caregivers in the lives of young children in South Africa through guided play.

Spring Impact

USD 242,179 (3 years)

To provide technical support to two partners of the Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Programme to scale up their work in order to accelerate the reduction of child sexual abuse.

Together for Girls

USD 99,907 (20 months)

To improve the ability of individuals and organisations to identify and implement evidence-based strategies that prevent childhood sexual violence, and support the healing of children who experience it.

Strategic opportunities

30 Ans de Droits de l'Enfant

USD 89,899 (10 months)

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in collaboration with key actors.

CDC Foundation

USD 680,035 (29 months)

To update and expand upon the CDC's 2007 publication Preventing Child Sexual Abuse Within Youth-Serving Organizations: Getting Started on Policies and Procedures.

Darkness to Light

USD 150,000 (18 months)

To support building a multi-platform media campaign by Darkness to Light and the Child Safety Coalition to create a conversation in the US around child sexual abuse.

Dialogai

USD 248,485 (3 years)

To support Dialogai to provide social support and counselling to LGBTQI youth and their parents as well as information and advice to education, health and social professionals working with LGBTQI youth in Geneva.

Eurochild

USD 250,000 (1 year)

To enable Eurochild to implement its new strategic plan 2019-2021 and to continue its organisational strengthening.

Family for Every Child

USD 100,000 (1 year)

To provide support to Family for Every Child in preparation for the next phase of how the care sector can prevent and respond to child sexual abuse around the world.

International Centre "La Strada" Moldova

USD 750,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to the La Strada in Moldova.

INTRAC

USD 200,276 (17 months)

To provide capacity building for Oak's partners in Ethiopia.

Medical Research Council of South Africa

USD 64,237 (4 months)

To include diverse voices in the Sexual Violence Research Initiative Forum held in South Africa in 2019, including practitioners and researchers from low- and middle-income countries working on child sexual abuse prevention.

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

USD 1,498,067 (3 years)

To develop and introduce new tools with enhanced capabilities that will add value to reports of child sexual abuse material and to ensure child victim identification efforts continue to modernise globally.

NEO Philanthropy

USD 652,700 (2 years)

To support NEO Philanthropy to implement an initiative commissioned by the Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Programme to respond to the capacity-building needs of a cohort of international partners.

Network of European Foundations

USD 200,000 (2 years)

To contribute to the fund of the European Programme for Integration and Migration for the longterm prospects and protection of children and youth on the move in Europe.

New Venture Fund

USD 4,982,105 (4 years)

To support core networks essential to advancing Oak Foundation's Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Programme's mission.

Thorn

USD 5,000,000 (5 years)

To protect children from online child sexual abuse by scaling up the development and use of technology tools globally.

Tides Center

USD 1,500,000 (3 years)

To provide sub-grants and organise convenings and collaboration of key policy-focused actors across diverse sectors to protect and enhance US policies, programmes and funding that work to achieve better outcomes for children and youth globally.

Tides Foundation

USD 1,360,337 (2 years)

To support partners of the Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Programme to ensure they build sustainable practices to help them fulfill their missions.

Tides Foundation

USD 1,500,000 (3 years)

To support the Children First Fund to provide funding that can be mobilised quickly and is responsive to time-bound, unanticipated or non-traditional opportunities and needs of the Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Programme.

Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation

USD 850,000 (29 months)

To manage exit grants in Bulgaria and Moldova for the partners of the Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Programme and to provide capacity-building support to the grantees.



Covering a wide range of fields, including health, humanitarian relief, education and the arts



| Special Interest

The Special Interest Programme reflects the Trustees' interests in making dynamic, diverse, large, innovative and challenging grants. **We are committed to remaining flexible and to seizing opportunities as they arise.** Special Interest grants cover a wide range of fields, including health, humanitarian relief, education and the arts. They are made to organisations whose activities the Trustees wish to support, irrespective of country or region. The stories on the following pages represent the diversity of the programme.

Supporting veterans in the UK

It is well-documented that the experience of war and conflict during military service can have detrimental effects on mental and physical health. Along with physical injuries or scars, many veterans leave the military with mental health issues, including anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and substance abuse problems. Often they struggle to feel understood, and to find support.

“Sometimes, it’s hard enough to explain it to yourself – what you’ve actually seen and done,” says Paul, a Royal Marine veteran who lives at the RBLI village. “And you can’t un-see what you’ve seen. I needed a bit of guidance to know that I’m not alone.”

After 22 years of military service, Paul found himself homeless. Living with a disability, his relationship had broken down and he struggled to find the help he needed. In the UK, for those with disabilities, it is often hard to access properly-adapted housing with on-site nursing care provision. In addition, single men are not a priority for social housing, and as veterans have work experience, they are not prioritised for government employability support. Social disadvantage can become entrenched for some veterans as they experience long-term unemployment, debt, homelessness and social isolation.

Royal British Legion Industries (RBLI), an hour’s train ride from London, offers homes to more than 300 veterans and their families in its diverse Aylesford village in Kent. In 2019, RBLI supported more than 17,000 people, including armed force veterans, people with disabilities and unemployed persons. Its Centenary Village offers assisted living, family homes, and a community and skills centre for residents. It also offers paid employment to veterans in a unique social enterprise factory.

While on active duty, members of the military are used to having a support structure around them all of the time. “For many, it’s difficult when all of that falls away,” says Steve Parrott, RBLI welfare manager. “We deliver something that’s familiar, but not so familiar that they become completely reliant on it. It’s about empowering them to get back on their feet and to move on, while still being able to reach back and get support from us.”

Paul is now thriving. He is currently writing a book, offers support and friendship to other veterans to whom he can easily relate, and is involved in many activities around the RBLI village. “What I’ve learned is that your life is like a book,” he says. “I thought mine was over, but there have been more chapters since then. My advice to others is, let’s go out on a good chapter.”

“My advice to others is, let’s go out on a good chapter.”

Paul, marine veteran

Oak is contributing to the RBLI’s project to expand its Centenary Village. This will involve building 22 new, disability-adapted apartments for veterans and their families.



Caption: The photos above illustrate the thoughtful support of the Royal British Legion Industries to over 300 veterans from the armed forces, including people with disabilities or those who are unemployed.

Check out our online annual report (due May 2020) to watch the video!

Get the clothes, get the confidence, get the job

Smart Works is a volunteer-led UK charity that dresses, coaches and empowers unemployed women before their job interview. The Smart Works service works: 64 per cent of the women helped by Smart Works secure a job within a month, helping them to start a new chapter and transform their lives.

Each Smart Works client has a personalised styling session with a team of trained dressing volunteers and is gifted a complete outfit of high-quality clothes and accessories, which are free and hers to keep. This is followed by a one-to-one interview coaching session with an experienced HR professional or senior manager, focusing on increasing the client's awareness of her own strengths, answering questions effectively and understanding what is expected of her at interview.

"I got the job, and I wore the outfit I was given, including a briefcase. It had a lovely message inside saying 'Good luck, I hope you get the career you want.' And I did," says Selam, who came to Smart Works after having been unemployed for six months and after having applied for nearly 50 jobs. Being out of work had knocked her confidence, and she was lacking the self-belief she needed to succeed. "I had a

"I got a lovely message saying, 'I hope you get the career you want', and I did."

Selam

fabulous experience at Smart Works," she says. "Everyone is so kind and helpful, I felt so much more confident going to my interview."

Smart Works reaches some of the most vulnerable women in society, including those referred to them by support organisations and charities, such as job centres, prisons, the care service, housing associations and women's refuges. In the last six years, Smart Works has dressed and coached over 16,000 women from eight centres across the UK.



"The appointment made me feel motivated," says Selam. "It's kind of crazy how an outfit can change how you feel. I felt confident. I could get whatever I put my mind to." The team – across all eight Smart Works centres – are united by a shared commitment to bring the very best quality service to each client, and continually collaborate and share best practice to achieve that.

If you would like to find out more, please visit www.smartworks.org.uk

Caption, above: Smart Works works with vulnerable women to support them into employment.

Tiny Homes, big solution?

“Too much month at the end of the paycheck” – this is an American expression which describes the predicament that many low-income families face each month. Safe and affordable housing is a challenging issue in the US, in particular for people with serious mental illnesses, many of whom rely on government programmes such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to provide the financial support they need.

“People with mental illness receiving a fixed income are put in a position where they already owe more than they receive each month for housing,” says Amy Blank Wilson, co-director at the Tiny Homes Project. “For many, it means they’re homeless. And for many more, they are forced to engage in what I call a cycle for a fight for survival. This creates a stress in their lives that makes it impossible, almost, to get well, until they can find some safe and affordable housing.”

Tiny homes, or homes that are less than 500 square feet (about 46 m²), offer a possible solution. These homes cost less to build, are more affordable and offer the privacy and independence that many people desire. Once built, the rent for homes will cost approximately USD 250 a month for the residents, which is one third of the monthly income received on the SSI scheme.

“These homes are designed to optimise the wellbeing of the residents,” says Amy.

The plan is to build 15 tiny homes on a plot of land in Chatham County, North Carolina – five for veterans and ten for people with serious mental illness. As well as providing a place to live, the Tiny Homes project brings together a community, which will play a big role in providing an informal support system. “There is a lot of research that has shown that over

70 per cent of somebody’s health outcomes are based on non-medical drivers of health, like housing, food, transportation, where somebody lives and who they surround themselves with,” says Thava Mahadevan, director of operations for the UNC’s centre for excellence in community mental health. “Most people with serious mental illness are really lonely, and loneliness is lethal.”

“These homes are designed to optimise the wellbeing of the residents.”

Amy Blank Wilson

In addition, an organic farm will provide healthy food and work for residents. “This really touches on getting back to the basis on how much food can play a role in somebody’s health,” says Thava. In addition, the 40 acres of woodland provide ample opportunity for residents to resource themselves through nature, and the team intend to bring in shelter dogs. “Bringing in man’s best friend has made a big difference with some of our clients,” says Thava.

Want to find out more? Go to our online annual report to watch the video! (Due May 2020.)



Caption:

The photos above illustrate the the work of the team at Penny Lane Farm who plan to build a community of 15 Tiny Homes in Chatham County, North Carolina to serve veterans and people with mental illness.

Rewilding ramps up in Britain



Beavers are back in the wild in Britain. They're back in Scotland and Devon, and landowners are applying for licences to release them in other parts of the country. Rewilding Britain, a UK-based organisation that works to encourage a balance between people and nature, feels it can take some credit for the reintroduction of the beavers, as it is on the advisory group for the beaver release trial on the River Otter in Devon.

These amazing aquatic engineers change the landscape constantly – building dams that slow the flow of water (reducing flooding downstream) and creating ponds and wetlands that are rich wildlife havens.

Beavers are symbolic of a wilder Britain, but rewilding is much more than that. In the past, conservation has focused on saving isolated fragments of nature, as nature reserves or places of scientific interest. It was vital work, but unfortunately it has not been enough to stop the decline in biodiversity. The latest State of Nature report shows that 41 per cent of UK species have declined in abundance since 1970, 15 per cent of species are threatened with extinction, and 2 per cent are already extinct.¹

Working hand in hand with traditional nature conservation, Rewilding Britain is looking to reverse this catastrophic loss and allow nature to flourish across larger areas across the UK. Rewilding takes a holistic approach and looks at the health of the wider landscape. Rewilding practices mean that less management is needed, making it more affordable and sustainable than other conservation methods. It recognises the power of nature to heal itself and work in its own way as it has for millennia. Giving nature the space it needs, where it needs it, will reward us with a healthier earth and a more sustainable future.

Policy plays an important role in this. Rewilding Britain works to influence government policy so that rewilding becomes a key part of future land use. In a report it published last year², it demonstrated how nature-based solutions can tackle the climate emergency and the extinction crisis. Rewilding Britain followed it with a petition to the UK parliament to restore nature on a massive scale to help stop climate breakdown. It got the required 100,000 signatures in less than two months, triggering a parliamentary debate in October.

Rewilding Britain is also working with people on the ground – landowners, community groups, companies and other individuals – to help make rewilding happen. It provides key support to two large rewilding projects in Scotland, which have been initiated by local people wanting to improve the place they live in on a large scale.

Rewilding Britain supports farmers and landowners who want to rewild across large areas from Cumbria and Northumberland to Devon and Cornwall. The organisation receives hundreds of enquiries from individuals and organisations across the country, as well as many offers of support.

Oak is excited to be supporting Rewilding Britain and to see how things are starting to change rapidly. We share its hope that the land can repair itself, absorbing more carbon, enriching soils, expanding wildlife, and giving us all a chance to adapt to our changing climate before it's too late.

Find out more:
<https://www.rewildingbritain.org.uk/>

Caption, above: Beavers are back in the wild in Britain, and their offspring in Scotland will soon be released into enclosures in England.

References: Please see page 66 of this report.

Tackling climate change head on

Climate change affects every aspect of our lives: the food we eat; the water we drink; the air we breathe; the communities we call home; and the plants and animals that make up our ecosystems.

By 2050, up to 250 million people (nearly four times the population of France) are projected to be displaced by rising sea levels, floods, famine, drought, hurricanes, desertification and devastated ecosystems.

According to the world's leading scientists, we have a decade to make critical changes to avoid the very worst impacts of an overheating planet. Urgent, collective action is required to slash emissions and restore our planet.

Philanthropists play a key role in accelerating solutions, yet climate currently represents just a fraction of philanthropic giving. Donors are needed to fund research, invest in new technologies, support policy, help communities transition sustainably, protect landscapes and more. "We believe that philanthropy is uniquely positioned to quickly scale climate solutions to create a cleaner, safer and more equitable future for all," says Kristian Parker, Oak Foundation Trustee.

In 2019, the Climate Leadership Initiative (CLI) formally launched to rapidly and exponentially increase climate philanthropy by making it easier for new donors to tap into a network of peers, experts and high-impact solutions. Oak Foundation is one of CLI's founding funders, along with the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, Hewlett Foundation, David & Lucile Packard Foundation and Sea Change Foundation.

"We believe that philanthropy is uniquely positioned to scale climate solutions."

Kristian Parker

CLI is both an advisory service for new climate donors and strategic support for experienced donors to enlist their peers. With a balance of both rigour and urgency, CLI quickly and nimbly engages donors with tailored giving opportunities that cut across issues such as health, poverty, food and economic justice. With the hire of its founding president, Jennifer Kitt and strong team members in London, Geneva and the home office in San Francisco, CLI is actively advising new donors while building networks and events to engage more donors. To date, CLI has helped raised USD 74.8 million for climate solutions.

CLI is an entirely new way of tackling the climate challenge. Learn more at <https://climatelead.org/>.



© Climate Leadership Initiative

Caption, left: Climate Justice Initiative supports funding work to reduce climate change in specific sectors, including by transitioning to renewable energy sources.

Ensuring access to rights for everyone



In the United Kingdom, local authorities have a duty to provide social care for people with assessed and eligible needs, in their areas of responsibility. For example, local authorities should ensure that older people get support with washing and cooking, that people with learning disabilities can manage their finances well, and that people with sight and hearing impairments are helped to safely get out of their homes and into the community to make friends.

However, austerity measures in the UK have resulted in local authority funding being cut by nearly 60 per cent¹, and as a result, care is being denied to people in need. In addition, the number of new community care cases opened by lawyers has decreased by 84 per cent over the last decade².

The Legal Network is an initiative aimed at helping people get the social care that they have the right to. By offering access to legal aid for those who cannot pay for it, the Legal Network empowers careworkers to help families identify when they can be helped by a legal expert. “Local authorities unfortunately can act with impunity unless people can access a lawyer. Without access to justice, the rights might as well not exist,” says Kari Gerstheimer, director of The Legal Network. “But if we can

encourage care workers to pick up the phone and speak to our legal team about an issue, then we know that we can help people.”

This feeling of ‘lacking rights’ is exactly what the family of Jonathon Bowen, a 31-year-old born with cerebral palsy and severe learning difficulties, experienced this past year. After Jonathon’s father passed away last November, his mother and brother began trying to get support from social services to help care for him.

“Some problems have really simple solutions if you know what the law is.”

Victoria Butler-Cole

However, after three agencies couldn’t meet the family’s needs, social services told Jonathon’s brother Matthew that they had tried everyone they could and were unable to find a suitable care provider. It wasn’t until Matthew rang the legal advice line that he learned that the authorities were in fact obligated to find a way of providing care for Jonathon, which they duly did, once the Legal Network got involved.

“The Legal Network is really important because there is a huge range of problems that can crop up, and some of them will have really simple solutions if you know what the law is and if you know what the guidance is and if you know what the judges have said,” says Victoria Butler-Cole, Barrister at 39 Essex Chambers.

In addition, the Legal Network gathers data in order to influence better decision making and system change. Thus, the Legal Network is instilling hope in care workers and raising the spirits of vulnerable people and their families. “With our team of lawyers and with the managers working on the frontlines who have contact with families and individuals who are experiencing unlawful decision making and unlawful delays, we know we can make a difference together. We know that we can make sure that people’s rights are enforced,” says Kari.

Do you want to find out more? Go to our online annual report to watch the video! (Due May 2020.)

Caption, above: Some members of the team at the Legal Network.

References: Please see page 66 of this report.

Grants

Alliance Publishing Trust

USD 352,564 (5 years)

To increase the reach of the Alliance Publishing Trust within the global philanthropic community.

Association Savoir Patient (ASAP)

USD 606,061 (3 years)

To provide core support to ASAP, based in Switzerland, to improve care and quality of life of breast cancer patients.

Blueprint Trust

USD 384,615 (3 years)

To provide core support to Blueprint Trust in the UK to help businesses be inspired and guided by a purpose that respects people and contributes to a better society.

Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth

USD 550,000 (3 years)

To catalyse the just and equitable treatment of children in the justice system in the United States.

Canterbury Cantata Trust

USD 325,871 (5 years)

To support Sing to Beat Parkinsons to expand its network of inclusive singing groups for people with Parkinson's disease and their friends.

Central England Law Centre

USD 2,564,103 (4 years)

To support The Legal Network to increase legal capability among people with social care needs, their families and carers.

Church World Service, Inc.

USD 300,000 (3 years)

To welcome refugees and immigrants from around the world into lives of freedom, hope, and opportunity in the Triangle area of North Carolina.

Creative Folkestone

USD 256,410 (16 months)

To support the commissioning of internationally recognised artists to create artwork for Folkestone's public spaces as part of the Folkestone Triennial, the largest exhibition of newly commissioned work in the UK.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

USD 500,000 (3 years)

To support the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, based in Boston, the US, to develop psychosocial interventions that improve care for young adults with cancer.

El Futuro, Inc

USD 600,000 (4 years)

To provide mental health services in Spanish in a welcoming environment of healing and hope in Durham and Siler City, North Carolina.

Fondation Resonnance

USD 303,030 (3 years)

To provide core support to Fondation Résonance in Switzerland to offer piano lessons and masterclasses to people of all ages, using the Résonance pedagogy.

Friends of Mount Edgcombe Country Park

USD 641,026 (1 year)

To support Mount Edgcombe Country Park a Grade I listed landscape building on the National Register of Historic Parks and Gardens in Cornwall, the United Kingdom.

Graduate Institute Geneva

USD 353,535 (3 years)

To provide core support to the Global Commission on Drug Policy – a global advocacy organisation based in Geneva – to reform drug policies away from prohibition and towards responsible legal regulations at the local, national, regional and international levels.

HALO Trust

USD 750,000 (3 years)

To support HALO Trust's demining work in Zimbabwe which is contributing to the Government of Zimbabwe's goal of clearing all minefields in the country by 2025.

Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ)

USD 15,000,000 (5 years)

To provide core support to HCZ and its pipeline of programmes that offer education, social service and wellness services to over 12,000 children and their families in Central Harlem, New York, each year.

Head Talks LTD

USD 275,641 (3 years)

To provide core support to enable Head Talks to create and host online and offline content that informs and inspires those affected by mental health issues.

Inter-Faith Council for Social Service, Inc.

USD 750,000 (16 months)

To support the construction of a new facility of purpose-built space in order to increase food security for vulnerable families in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

USD 250,000 (2 years)

To support UNAIDS to promote youth leadership in the HIV response and provide opportunities to strengthen their skills as a new generation of advocates, through the development, launch and monitoring of a youth ambassadors' programme.

Laurel House, Inc.

USD 250,000 (2 years)

To develop a website (www.rtor.org) that guides, supports and provides best practice resources for recovery-oriented mental healthcare.

The Mary Foundation

USD 1,524,390 (4 years)

To provide core support to The Mary Foundation to improve the lives of children, adults and families who – as a result of their environment, heredity, illness or other circumstances – find themselves socially isolated or excluded from society.

Medical Foundation of North Carolina Inc.

USD 3,000,000 (2 years)

To develop family residential treatment in Orange County, North Carolina, for women with substance use disorders and their children, and to support the long-term recovery of women who complete treatment with transitional housing.

Miracle Feet

USD 465,911 (3 years)

To support the Zimbabwe Sustainable Clubfoot Programme to continue to run a country-wide clubfoot treatment programme in Zimbabwe.

North Carolina State University

USD 92,500 (2 years)

To develop principled and skilled public service professionals who fulfil leadership roles within governmental and not-for-profit organisations.

OXFAM

USD 512,821 (1 year)

To support Oxfam's humanitarian emergency operation in Yemen.

Playworks Education Energized

USD 100,000 (1 year)

To improve the health and wellbeing of children by increasing opportunities for physical activity and safe, meaningful play.

Rainforest Concern

USD 250,000 (2 years)

To protect and conserve the natural habitat of the Chiquibul National Park in Belize.

Raleigh International

USD 712,194 (3 years)

To increase the skills, knowledge and capacity of 2,000 youth and seven youth-led national societies to support the green growth agenda across seven countries.

Rewilding Britain

USD 576,923 (4 years)

To provide core support to Rewilding Britain to help realise its vision to have at least one million hectares of Britain supporting natural ecological processes and key species on land and at sea over the next century.

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc.

USD 5,000,000 (4 years)

To provide core support to the Climate Leadership Initiative in San Francisco, the US, to raise massive philanthropic money to mitigate climate change.

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc.

USD 1,000,000 (1 year)

To support the Global Commons Alliance to define and implement science-based targets to maintain the stability of the earth and to provide pathways for companies and cities to thrive.

Royal British Legion Industries

USD 1,282,051 (3 years)

To contribute to the Royal British Legion Industries' project to expand its Centenary Village in Kent, the United Kingdom.

Shackleton Foundation

USD 256,410 (5 years)

To provide core support to the Shackleton Foundation in the United Kingdom which exemplifies the spirit of Ernest Shackleton's leadership by giving seed funding to social entrepreneurs supporting socially disadvantaged young people.

Shobana Jeyasingh Dance

USD 576,923 (3 years)

To provide core support to British contemporary dance company, Shobana Jeyasingh Dance.

Smart Works Charity

USD 384,615 (3 years)

To provide core support to Smart Works, a UK charity that coaches unemployed women before job interviews.

Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs

USD 500,000 (3 years)

To empower hospitalised children and adolescents at the UNC Children's Hospital in North Carolina, the US, through the wonders of nature and science and multi-sensory learning experiences that promote joy and wellbeing.

Stichting BirdLife Europe

USD 401,538 (3 years)

To support Stichting BirdLife Europe to reduce illegal bird killing and trapping in Italy, Cyprus and Malta.

The Association for a UN Live Museum

USD 500,000 (2 years)

To support UN Live to launch a visionary global museum that connects people everywhere, especially youth, to the work and values of the United Nations and catalyses global effort towards accomplishing its goals.

The Carlos Acosta International Dance Foundation

USD 2,487,747 (5 years)

To support the Carlos Acosta International Dance Foundation to achieve the five-year development plan for dance company Acosta Danza.

The Center for Effective Philanthropy

USD 250,000 (2 years)

To support the Center for Effective Philanthropy in its mission to help philanthropic funders better define, assess and improve their effectiveness and their intended impact.

The Conservation Fund

USD 900,000 (3 years)

To strengthen the capacity of grassroots organisations to implement programmes that engage families in local food systems.

The Lenfest Institute for Journalism (TPF Special Assets Fund)

USD 750,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to 'The City' which is a new, independent, not-for-profit news outlet serving the people of New York.

The Sacconi Trust

USD 512,821 (5 years)

To provide core support and to further the development of the Sacconi quartet, its annual festival in Folkestone, the UK, and associated charitable activities.

The World's Big Sleep Out Trust

USD 1,000,000 (6 months)

To support the World's Big Sleep Out, a global event calling for an end to global homelessness that aims to raise USD 50,000,000 for charities tackling homelessness and displacement.

The Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights

USD 1,100,000 (3 years)

To support the Young Center's 'Safe Repatriation Project', which submits Best Interests Recommendations for immigrant children in detention in the United States.

Thorn

USD 1,000,000 (2 years)

To support Thorn to build and rollout a tool called 'Safer' which will help contain the spread of child sex abuse material and eventually eliminate it from the open web.

Triangle Community Foundation

USD 2,550,000 (4 years)

To serve as an intermediary partner for Oak Foundation in the Triangle region of North Carolina, specifically with custom services for core support grants and capacity-building grants over four years.

UK Youth

USD 256,410 (3 years)

To provide core support to UK Youth to help them increase access to youth services by facilitating organisations to provide support, develop skills and give access to opportunities for 9-25-year-olds regardless of their background or circumstance.

Uniting NC

USD 400,000 (2 years)

To help diverse low-income young people gain experience building apps that help others overcome barriers to social and economic justice, and then translate that experience into economic opportunity for themselves, their families and their communities.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

USD 1,000,000 (2 years)

To develop a new form of affordable housing for people with serious mental health conditions.

University of the People

USD 500,000 (13 months)

To enrich the University of the People's curriculum by incorporating themes of environmental sustainability into six of the online prerequisite courses offered to undergraduate students worldwide.



Capacity building

Darkness to Light

USD 161,116 (1 year)

To support Oak's grantee partners in the United States to develop and implement child safeguarding measures.

Give a Child a Family

USD 103,176 (18 months)

To support Oak's grantee partners operating in Southern Africa to develop and implement child safeguarding measures.

Impact and Innovations Development Centre

USD 127,000 (14 months)

To support Oak's grantee partners operating in East Africa to develop and implement child safeguarding measures.

Keeping Children Safe

USD 147,436 (1 year)

To provide support to Oak's grantee partners to build their capacity on child safeguarding.

Lundberg Enterprises, LLC dba Praesidium

USD 150,000 (1 year)

To support Oak's grantee partners in the United States to develop and implement child safeguarding measures.

Social Sector Accelerator

USD 250,000 (1 year)

To strengthen the communications capacities of several Oak partners in three different regions – Asia, Brazil and Europe.

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

USD 102,792 (16 months)

To develop and implement a safeguarding strategy for Oak's grantee partners to meet their requirements relating to child safeguarding.

Special initiative

Chapel Hill-Carrboro Public School Foundation

USD 4,300,000 (3 years)

To provide equal opportunities for all children in the school district in Chapel Hill and Carrboro, North Carolina and to monitor student achievement and experience.

NEO Philanthropy

USD 3,000,000 (3 years)

To support the Four Freedoms Fund's initiative to stop the detention of migrant children in the US.

Swiss Philanthropy Foundation

USD 10,000,000 (7 years)

To strengthen families and to avoid placement of children into small and large institutions in Bulgaria, and to shift public resources and action towards strengthening families who are in crisis so that they are able to stay together.



Contributing to a just,
fair and secure society
for everyone.



| Brazil

Placing the welfare of people at the centre of development and protecting the environment are key aims of our programme in Brazil. By deepening democracy and encouraging inclusive public debates, our partners are working to develop new ways to prevent violence, mediate conflict and restore justice.

This work has not been easy, as a range of challenges swept Brazil in 2018 and 2019, eroding public trust, harming the environment and people's livelihoods, and resulting

in more violence for youth in the cities. We have revised our grant-making strategy, expanding our support beyond Recife to encompass the northeastern region of Brazil. We will support our partners in their efforts to reduce violence and protect people's rights. Activities include: producing compelling research and data; bringing the voices of the most affected by these dynamics into public debates and policy-making processes; and advocating for the implementation of people's socio-environmental rights.

Creating secure and sustainable communities

In August 2019, large fires scorched huge swathes of the Amazon, polluting cities many miles away with thick, impenetrable smoke. Many consider industrial farming and large infrastructure projects to be driving the deforestation, exacerbated by new policies that allow for the commercial exploitation of protected lands.

In response, the indigenous peoples of the Amazon have been mobilising across South America to defend their rightful ownership to the forestland. One example is Brazil's Indigenous People Articulation (APIB), which aims to strengthen the unity of their movement across the country. (Oak supports APIB through its grant to Instituto Makarapy.) APIB works with indigenous peoples and organisations to raise their voices about their struggles, claims and demands and to stand against threats and attacks to indigenous people's rights.

“We don't need to destroy to produce. We are rich in diversity, this whole forest depends on our culture to stand.”

Brazil's Indigenous People Articulation

A recent statement by APIB expresses its approach. “We don't need to destroy to produce,” it reads. “They cannot sell our wealth; money does not pay for it. Our territory is very rich – not in money – we are rich in diversity and this whole forest depends on our culture to stand.” Social conflicts in Brazil have long been rooted in the unequal distribution and expropriation of resources, including land. People living off the land in Brazil possess socio-environmental rights, and Oak supports organisations working to implement these rights.

Meanwhile, a number of developments are making life more difficult in Brazil's cities. In response to elevated levels of street crimes, policies to combat drugs have been implemented with a punitive effect, contributing to rising

levels of violence and taking the lives of thousands of young people, mostly Afro-Brazilians, each year. While ensuring citizen security is of paramount importance, an effective policy is one that includes the voices of all those affected by violence. In pursuit of a more inclusive process, our grant-making will support the production of an evidence base to inform policy. This will help all voices be heard as critical decisions are made by policy-makers.

Every society needs a functioning public sphere that nurtures debates as to what constitutes society's best interest, and to which everyone has access. Increasingly, in Brazil as elsewhere, there is evidence of the use of bots and algorithms to interfere in elections and political processes.¹

This threatens to erode public trust and poses challenges for civil society, whose efforts to create social change rely on the legitimacy of evidence in a range of fields.

Our support for efforts to promote more inclusive policy debates aims to encourage learning and openness, resulting in a process that can transcend political divides and in policies that serve the best interests of all Brazilians.

To learn more about our Brazil Programme's strategy, please visit our website.



Grants

Audisa Auditores Associados S/S

USD 50,000 (1 year)

To conduct international-standard financial audits (in Portuguese and English) of Oak Foundation's Brazil Programme grantees.

Centro de Estudos de Segurança e Cidadania

USD 99,941 (6 months)

To conduct applied research on the economic costs of drug prohibition in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo States.

Fundo Socioambiental CASA

USD 488,489 (30 months)

To promote conservation, environmental sustainability, democracy and social justice by supporting and enhancing the capacity of civil society's initiatives in South America.

Graduate Institute Geneva

USD 105,862 (26 months)

To establish a merit-based internship programme within the Brazil Programme.

Instituto Makarapy

USD 249,777 (2 years)

To promote the rights of indigenous peoples in Brazil through advocacy, litigation and mobilisation.

Instituto Update

USD 341,384 (2 years)

To strengthen Instituto Update's capacity to identify, connect across and nurture the ecosystem of political innovation in Brazil and Latin America.

Marco Zero Conteúdo

USD 236,302 (2 years)

To produce multi-media content that highlights the work of the Brazil Programme's grantees and distribute the content through an online news portal and social media.

Nucleo de Apoio à Pesquisa e Educação Continuada

USD 107,789 (1 year)

To support Oak's Brazil Programme with staff and logistic support.

Our Cities

USD 300,000 (1 year)

To support Our Cities to provide campaign capacity, tools and engagement platforms on the realm of citizen's rights in Recife, Brazil.



Captions:

Above: Amazon Frontlines works to defend indigenous rights to land, life and cultural survival in the Amazon rainforest.

Page 55: some wall art in Recife, Brazil.





Contributing to efforts that help people reach their full potential, be safe and healthy, and have a place to live.

Oak Foundation Denmark

We provide support to organisations in Denmark, Greenland and the Faroe Islands that provide innovative solutions to improve the lives of socially vulnerable and marginalised groups at the community level.

We know that social change takes time and is not a linear process. We believe that we can achieve social change by supporting broad, professional, holistic and innovative approaches that tackle issues at the root. To this end, most of Oak Foundation Denmark's grant-making includes

support for strategies and approaches that address challenges at community level. We also contribute to strengthening or building organisational capacity. We provide funding to both large and grassroots organisations. As part of our strategy, **we support organisations that help vulnerable and homeless people, as well as those who are at risk of homelessness.**

The article on the following page illustrates this element of our grant-making.

Tackling homelessness

More than 6,400 people are homeless in Denmark¹, of which one fifth are young people². Organisations such as the Salvation Army, Café Klare and the Danish Red Cross are finding solutions to house these people, build relationships with and among them and improve their lives. These organisations have worked to mitigate the problem in a number of ways.

The Salvation Army provides homeless men with a place to stay and strives to build a support system around them. Many of the men struggle with addiction issues and have been rejected by their friends and family. Recognising how prevalent loneliness is among the homeless men staying at the shelter, the team at the Salvation Army actively tries to create connections among and with them. "It's very important for these men to create a social network within the shelter. We want them to have friends they can turn to and talk to when they leave," says Niels Boelskov, Social Worker at the Salvation Army.

"It's a way we can try to give worthiness and hopefulness to people who are coming from unworthy circumstances," said Kim Nissen, daily leader at Salvation Army.

"It's a way we can try to give worthiness and hopefulness to people."

Kim Nissen

Café Klare is a night café for homeless women in Denmark. An estimated 90 per cent of the women who stay there have a mental illness. Café Klare plays a critical role in taking women

who are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse off the streets. Social workers support the women at Café Klare and help them find their own place to stay. Many of the women at Café Klare have no friends or family left to rely on, and are often unable to live alone because of the feeling of loneliness. "Most of them don't have any friends or family left. Some of them can't manage the day without having the support," says Ayfer Baykal, manager of Café Klare.

There is also the element of "hidden homelessness" in Denmark. Many young people couch surf because they simply don't have anywhere else to go. Couch surfing precedes most cases of homelessness, but younger people are far less likely to become homeless if they can be helped in time. That is why the Danish Red Cross targets homeless individuals between the ages of 18 and 29 through its project called Home to You.

This project gives young people who do not have a home a place to stay with a family. "With this project, we can give youth a stable base that gives them the opportunity to take charge of their living situation," said Sidsel Faurholt, project manager at the Danish Red Cross.

These grants seek innovative solutions that improve the daily lives and future prospects of socially vulnerable and marginalised groups.



Caption: The photos in this section of the report illustrate our grantees' work in Denmark to bring communities together and support vulnerable or homeless people.

Check out our online annual report to watch the video (due May 2020).

References: Please see page 66 of this report.

Grants

Danner, Etniske kvinder

USD 487,805 (2 years)

To develop tools for and secure updated knowledge in crisis centres in Denmark that work with migrant women who are victims of domestic violence.

Danner, Sexualiseret vold

USD 194,207 (1 year)

To develop a common language and to raise awareness around sexualised violence in intimate relationships.

Det Grønlandske Hus

USD 135,850 (1 year)

To improve employment chances for socially marginalised young Greenlanders living in Aalborg.

Det Kærlige Måltid

USD 509,863 (3 years)

To support a work community among young students and socially vulnerable persons between the age of 15 and 25 years old.

Exitcirklen

USD 782,691 (3 years)

To build capacity and support dialogue groups in Exitcirklen's programme *12 steps out of psychological violence*.

Foreningen Hellebro

USD 95,171 (1 year)

To support a drop-in centre and shelter for young and primarily homeless people aged between 18 and 29 years old.

Frelsens Hær – Hørhuset

USD 146,723 (1 year)

To rebuild the outdoor atrium for the residents in the shelter Hørhuset, which is under the remit of the Salvation Army's work.

Hjælp til Hjemløse

USD 76,690 (1 year)

To offer homeless and socially marginalised people in Aarhus a better and more dignified life by supporting the work of a group of volunteers.

Hugs and Food

USD 67,692 (1 year)

To supply food for homeless people in Copenhagen and offer them a place to rest.



© ishtar

Håb i Psykiatrien

USD 76,220 (1 year)

To provide entertainment activities in psychiatric hospitals, in particular closed wards, and to gather documentation of the impact on patients' health.

INI – Børnedemokrati

USD 219,512 (2 years)

To improve the wellbeing of children in residential areas in Sisimiut in Greenland by engaging them in participatory democracy and supporting their competences.

Kommune Kujalleq

USD 87,652 (1 year)

To support the development of a plan for the municipality of Kujalleq in Southern Greenland on how to improve social and mental health with better facilities for sports and outdoor activities.

Kvindakrisecenter Bornholm

USD 166,915 (2 years)

To develop and systematise the recruitment, training, supervision and work of the volunteers at the women's crisis centre in Bornholm.

Københavns Universitet - Forskningscenter for Migration, Etnicitet og Sundhed

USD 24,695 (1 year)

To document information about the women who have given birth at the health clinic for undocumented migrants run by the Danish Red Cross.

Overmarksgården

USD 30,488 (1 year)

To support a drop-in centre and shelter for homeless people in Jylland, following a fire that destroyed most of the rooms.

Projekt Udenfor

USD 274,390 (2 years)

To finance a social worker to work with a participatory community of homeless people in Aarhus where the members have constructed their own homes.

Reden International

USD 824,285 (3 years)

To develop and strengthen the work in a night café in Copenhagen for sex-workers by offering them a safe, warm place and access to health facilities.

Røde Kors

USD 615,807 (3 years)

To provide support to the Red Cross health clinic for undocumented migrants.

SydhavnsCompagniet

USD 220,427, (3 years)

To finance a social worker to help build community among residents at Anker Jørgensens Square at Sydhavnen.

TUBA

USD 68,598 (1 year)

To co-finance a short film which describes the life of a young girl growing up in an alcoholic family.

Ubbely Krisecenter

USD 79,726 (1 year)

To devise an IT system for homeless shelters where vacant rooms are advertised when they become available to homeless persons.

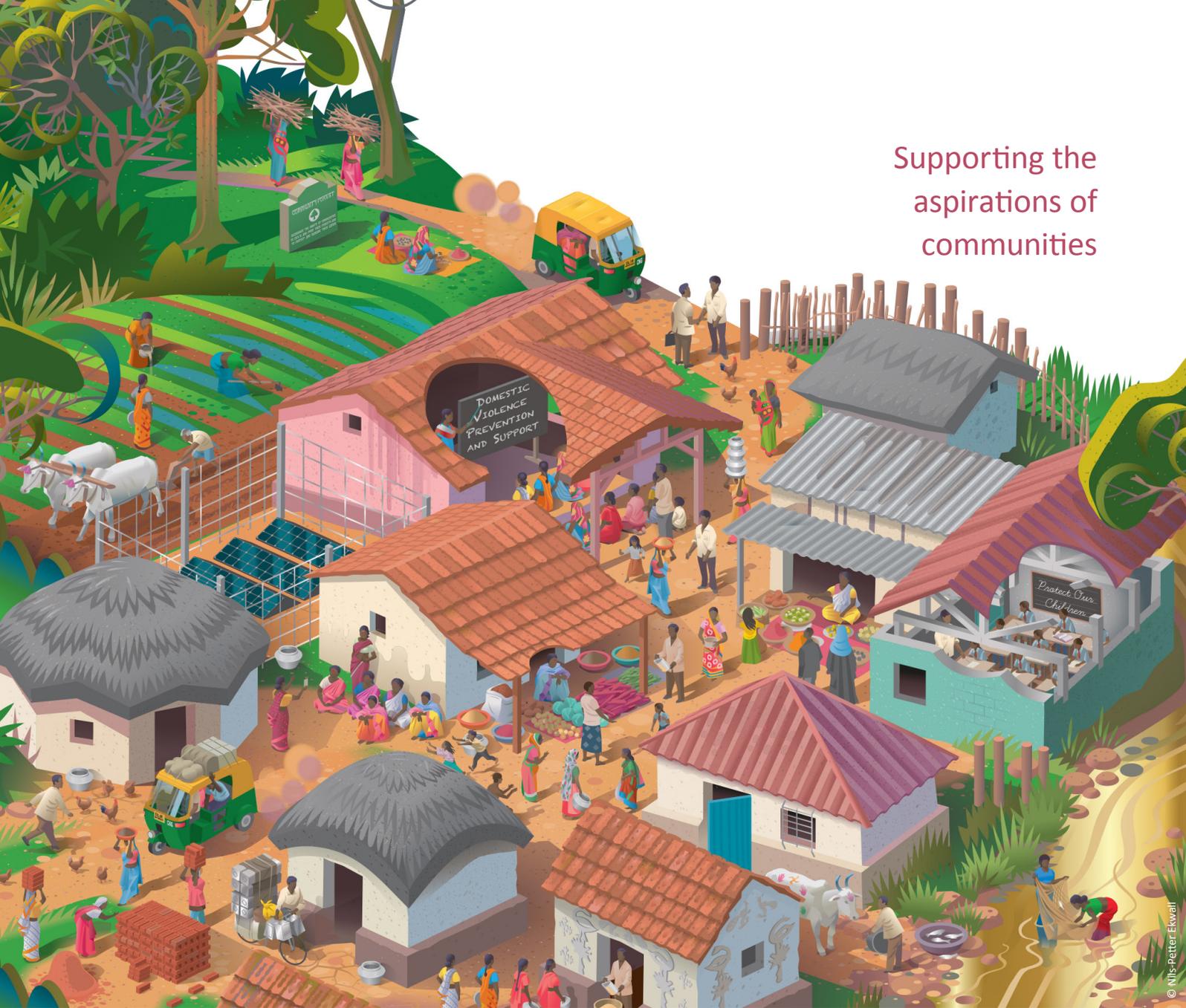
VIVE

USD 149,960 (2 years)

To provide a deeper and more profound knowledge and understanding of the mechanisms causing family homicide.



Supporting the aspirations of communities



| India

We are currently redefining our India Programme strategy. We intend to continue supporting civil society through core, project and long-term funding.

The focus of our grants going forward will be to: support those in the unorganised work sector to receive fair wages and work in safe and equitable conditions; build an environment conducive to the safe movement of adults and children who migrate; support efforts by indigenous

communities to gain access to their entitlements; and elevate the voices of communities that have been marginalised due to social and environmental factors, so that they have a say in the decisions that affect their lives.

The story on the following page showcases the work of our partners to ensure safe and fair working conditions for those in the unorganised work sector.

The women who are leading the way

Hundreds of millions of unorganised workers form the backbone of India's economy. Their work includes every trade imaginable – fishing, selling wares, tiling, cleaning, building, cooking and everything in between. Despite being in great numbers, informal workers, in particular women, are often invisible. Because they are not registered, they are not entitled to benefits such as pensions, maternity cover, the minimum wage or protection in the workplace.

Sewa Bharat set up an office in Jharkhand in 2016. The goal of the organisation was to teach local women about their entitlements, and to help them to support each other to achieve them.

“Women here are empowered,” says Anshu Keretta, state coordinator of Sewa Bharat in Jharkhand. “Women played a crucial role in demanding statehood for Jharkhand. The leadership is there, it just needs to be nourished.”

“The leadership is there, it just needs to be nourished.”

Anshu Kerketta

Swanleta is a domestic worker in Jharkhand. She heard about the ILO Convention 189, introduced in 2011, through Sewa Bharat. The convention recognises domestic workers as workers for the first time and sees the possibility of collective bargaining power for decent working conditions and fair terms of employment. She made requests of her employer, such as for the minimum wage and one day's leave a week. “As well as these things, I was able to demand respect as a domestic worker,” she says.

She started holding community meetings and motivated other

domestic workers to also demand their entitlements. Together they agreed that if any of their employers refused their requests, none of the other women would take up employment at that house. Thus, by banding together, they built their strength and resilience.

And it hasn't stopped there. DISHA, an organisation present in the Sundarbans on the border with Bangladesh, facilitated identity cards for nearly 2,000 women fishworkers. ID cards enable benefits to be accessed, such as maternity leave, pensions, and scholarships for the workers' children. “We are trying to increase the visibility of the women fishworkers,” says Sasanka Dev, from DISHA. “Their wages should be increased, as well as their access to boats, tools and government schemes.”

The work of our partners in Jharkhand and West Bengal has strengthened women working in the informal sector to negotiate better wages and ultimately, build a better future for themselves, their families and their communities.

“The collective might of women must be harnessed as a powerful, necessary force for change,” says Paromita Chowdhury, programme officer of the India Programme. “All of them are leaders; they want to inspire other women in similar situations to take up the fight in their respective struggles.”



Caption:

The photos throughout this section of the report illustrate our grantees' efforts to strengthen those working in the the infomal sector in India, in particular women.

Check out our online annual report to watch the video (due May 2020).

Grants

Bindrai Institute for Research Study and Action

USD 340,508 (2 years)

To support BIRSA to implement community forest programmes that protect the interests of the indigenous Adivasis peoples in Jharkhand.

Bindrai Institute for Research Study and Action

USD 169,652 (2 years)

To facilitate leadership among indigenous communities in Jharkhand, India, to enable them to protect their land/forest/water resources by claiming their rights under constitutional and customary laws.

Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e.V

USD 213,586 (2 years)

To provide capacity building support that strengthens civil society organisations in Jharkhand, India.

Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee

USD 155,490 (3 years)

To establish food security and employment for families living below the poverty line in West Bengal, India.

Find Your Feet

USD 64,103 (1 year)

To empower tribal populations in several districts in Jharkhand, India.

FXB INDIA SURAKSHA

USD 180,203 (2 years)

To research the factors that increase children's vulnerability to different forms of abuse and exploitation in the Santhal Parganas district in Jharkhand.

Gender at Work

USD 194,835 (2 years)

To provide support to Gender at Work to help strengthen civil society organisations in Jharkhand, India.

Kamonohashi

USD 450,000 (3 years)

To support Kamonohashi to convene the programme Taftesh, which promotes rights to restorative justice for survivors of trafficking in West Bengal.

Mahila Housing Trust

USD 936,060 (4 years)

To empower women in Ranchi, Jharkhand to access sustainable livelihoods, legal housing and affordable essential services like water, sanitation and electricity.

NIRMANA

USD 205,458 (2 years)

To continue the support to NIRMANA in assisting women domestic workers to secure their identity as "workers".

Praxis – Institute for Participatory Practices

USD 25,000 (2 months)

To support Praxis to enable seven organisations to bring together the leaders of local communities around development initiatives in a region in West Bengal, India.

Praxis – Institute for Participatory Practices

USD 651,252 (3 years)

To support Praxis to enable eight organisations to support vulnerable communities in the Patharpratima block of Sundarbans (West Bengal).

Society for Direct Initiative for Social and Health Action

USD 364,795 (4 years)

To support smallscale fishing communities to be able to make their livelihoods sustainably and to protect water and land from pollution and over-fishing.

Socio Legal Information Centre (SLIC)

USD 978,482 (3 years)

To support the SLIC's efforts to increase access to justice and legal redress for the poor in India.

SWAYAM

USD 456,849 (3 years)

To provide core support to Swayam to enable it to provide services and support to women and children to live a life free from inequality, violence and fear.

Traidcraft Exchange UK

USD 809,195 (4 years)

To improve sustainable livelihoods and food sovereignty among 3,000 households in Jharkhand.



Contributing to
healthy and vibrant
communities



| Zimbabwe

Oak Zimbabwe Foundation is a national programme through which we fund local organisations involved in caring and providing for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable people in Zimbabwean society.

We support organisations operating in the following priority areas: healthcare, including HIV/AIDS; rural water supplies; special needs education; and services that help vulnerable women, children and elderly persons.

Transforming lives in Zimbabwe

An estimated two and a half million anti-personnel mines and 76,000 fragmentation mines were laid along Zimbabwe's northern and eastern borders with Zambia and Mozambique during the War of Liberation in the 1970s, contaminating hundreds of square kilometres of land.¹

Many people live in close proximity to the minefields. HALO Trust's* pre-clearance surveys in the region found 87 communities and 79,368 people affected by mines, with 78 minefields located within 500 metres of residential areas.

This has had a significant impact upon their wellbeing and livelihoods and makes these economically fragile farming and trading communities unsafe. Virtually every activity – walking to school, fetching water, accessing farmland, travelling to markets, or going to the clinic – forces people to walk beside and sometimes through minefields. Incomes are also affected as mines take a heavy toll on livestock grazing in minefields where vegetation is the most dense. Since 1980 and nearly 40 years on from independence, these unfenced minefields have killed or injured thousands of people and more than 120,000 cattle.²

“Soon we will be able
to walk freely.”

Tashinga Chavhunga

The HALO Trust began operating in Zimbabwe in 2013. It currently deploys 415 staff across 31 clearance teams. It has safely destroyed over 90,000 landmines, making one third of the affected area on the northern border safe for habitation and farming.

According to ZIMAC, the total area remaining at the end of 2019 was just over 43 million square metres. Oak's grant to HALO will support the organisation's contribution to the

References: Please see page 66 of this report.

Government of Zimbabwe's goal of clearing all minefields in the country by 2025. By focusing on clearing landmines close to villages in the Mount Darwin and Rushingha Districts, the project will release approximately 15 hectares of land for safe use by these communities.

Villager Tashinga Chavhunga says, “We are happy because we know that soon we will be able to walk freely all the way from our home to our fields and the children will have a safe route to school.”



Captions:

Above: HALO deminers are recruited from the communities in which HALO operates. Here a few deminers take a break while enjoying the festivities at a recent land handover ceremony, where cleared land is formally handed back to the community for safe and productive use.

Opposite: Some locals in the Gonarezhou National Park in south-eastern Zimbabwe take part in a cooking class.

Grants

HIV/AIDS

Bethany Project, The

USD 75,460 (1 year)

To promote the wellbeing of children affected by HIV and AIDS in the southern region of Zimbabwe.

Family Action for Community Empowerment in Zimbabwe

USD 55,243 (1 year)

To improve the quality of life of people with HIV/AIDS in Makoni District of Manicaland Province and Marondera, Mrewa, Mutoko and Mudzi Districts of Mashonaland East Province.

Island Hospice and Bereavement Services

USD 90,000 (1 year)

To strengthen and scale up palliative care support links for vulnerable populations.

Kubatana Vocational Training Centre

USD 62,612 (1 year)

To provide healthcare to the community through a well-equipped and functional clinic and to promote early treatment for cancer and adherence to anti-retroviral medication for HIV/AIDS patients.

Mashambanzou Care Trust

USD 68,281 (1 year)

To provide quality care for people living with HIV and to empower local communities to deal effectively with the disease in the suburbs of Harare.

Midlands AIDS Service Organization

USD 37,270 (1 year)

To provide prevention and management programmes that address issues around HIV/AIDS in the Midlands province in Zimbabwe.

National St Johns Council for the Republic of Zimbabwe

USD 74,505 (1 year)

To empower young people faced with HIV in their surroundings to survive and help their sick relatives to live longer.



Special needs education

Dance Trust of Zimbabwe

USD 39,517 (1 year)

To promote and encourage the art of dance in Zimbabwe.

Isheanesu Multi-purpose Centre for Disabled Children

USD 19,200 (1 year)

To provide and sustain support for children with disabilities.

J.F. Kapnek Trust

USD 54,943 (1 year)

To improve the education, health, nutritional status and early childhood development of students in Sanyati District.

Kidzcan

USD 25,000 (1 year)

To increase the survival rate of children with cancer in a loving and caring environment.

NZEVE Deaf Children's Centre

USD 59,153 (1 year)

To provide core support to Nzeve, which provides holistic services for deaf children, youth and their families.

Sir Humphrey Gibbs Training Center

USD 16,959 (1 year)

To provide education, skills training, shelter, warmth, food and assistance in paying medical bills to children and young people without parents.

Zimcare Trust

USD 335,509 (1 year)

To ensure an enabling environment in which learning and care programmes are tailor-made to suit people with special needs.

Other

Rotary Club Harare Dawn

USD 11,795 (7 months)

To purchase medical equipment for use in Zimbabwe's hospitals.

Rotary Club Harare Dawn

USD 10,897 (1 year)

To buy medical equipment for use in some of Zimbabwe's hospitals.

Simukai Child Protection Program

USD 35,000 (1 year)

To protect and promote the rights of children and youth in order to help them to realise their full potential, with the participation of families and communities at large.



*The HALO Trust grant is listed on page 51 in the Special Interest section of this report, along with other grants that were made in Zimbabwe in 2019.

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The editors have tried to ensure the accuracy of this report but cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. A few grants have not been listed. In some cases names have been changed to protect the identity of individuals. Please email commdept@oakfnd.org if you would like to provide feedback.

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