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

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 (1983) and in Zimbabwe to groups supporting vulnerable children and families, primarily at community levels (1984). 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 5,440 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.

Since its establishment, Oak Foundation has made more than 5,440 grants to not-for-profit organisations around the world.
Letter from the Trustees

We are humbled by the resilience of our partners during the coronavirus pandemic. They innovated, adapted, and redoubled their commitment to serving their communities despite all the disruption. Their work allowed Oak Foundation to contribute to social and environmental change that meets communities where they are.

In response to the extended crisis, Oak Foundation ramped up our grant-making to help ensure that our partners could continue serving communities in need during a global lockdown, which impacted our lives all around the world. We provided 445 grants to 410 organisations in 44 countries and in addition, we provided more than USD 24 million in grants that were directly Covid-19-related.

In 2020, we all had to be adaptable and find new ways to work with the circumstances at hand. While the crisis is not over yet, as we start a new year, we take time to reflect and celebrate our accomplishments in 2020 in the pages of this annual report:

With support from our Environment Programme, Care for Wild is working to secure free-ranging white and black rhinoceros populations within a healthy and secure ecosystem in South Africa, through a project that ensures financial sustainability and the equitable participation of the community. “Our vision of inclusive community involvement addresses some of these global challenges we face together.”

The Housing and Homelessness Programme’s partners in the housing sector did great work, across countries, to house those experiencing street homelessness, prevent evictions, give emergency relief and support, and strengthen campaigning and advocacy to ensure that everyone was safely housed.

The International Human Rights Programme supported the efforts of its partners working to address racism in prisons. In many countries, Black and other marginalised people make up the highest per cent of all incarcerated people. “Ending mass incarceration is crucial for racial justice all over the world.”

The Issues Affecting Women Programme supports women’s efforts in Switzerland to build, lead and grow strong, vibrant, and influential movements that achieve equity and justice. “Until 2019, more men named Hans had served in the Swiss Parliament than women.”

In 2020, schools shifted to distance learning nearly overnight. The Learning Difference Programme’s partners worked hard to ensure that students received the best support possible. We hope that their efforts inspire greater equity and access to meaningful educational opportunities for all children.

The Moore Center, in partnership with the Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Programme, launched a research effort to evaluate programmes that are most effective at preventing the perpetration of child sexual abuse. “What we’ve been doing for the past 30 years – teaching our children how to protect themselves, mandating teachers, and others to report abuse, and relying on law enforcement strategies – just isn’t enough.”

Through the Special Interest Programme, we are supporting children in Kenya to be agents of positive change in their communities. We are helping fight against food waste in Geneva, Switzerland, and supporting the distribution of food packages to families in need. Research by Oxford University is helping uncover fundamental questions about Covid-19, produce a reliable vaccine and therapy, and bring us one step closer to understanding the illness to better protect communities. The Conservation Fund in North Carolina continued supporting communities of colour, including Native American and Latinx communities. Its work seems more relevant than ever, given the current fight for racial justice in the US.

We supported partners at the forefront of providing health treatments to people in Zimbabwe. Their work is helping to eliminate clubfoot and to eradicate blindness through cataract surgery. In Brazil, our partners worked to protect people in urban favelas, as well as the territorial and environmental rights of vulnerable communities. In Denmark and Greenland, our partners rose to the challenge of meeting the needs of society’s most vulnerable people, by supporting those experiencing homelessness, and helping to construct an emergency shelter in Greenland.

In India, the crisis prevented many of our partners from meeting in person with the communities most in need. In their absence, frontline workers and volunteers took their places as natural leaders to ensure that vulnerable communities were supported by communal safety nets in practical ways, helping to mitigate risk. “I learned about tactics to claim rights and entitlements from the training.”

We are proud of our foundation and our partnerships. Through the work we do, we support others to make the world a safer, fairer, and more sustainable place to live. Our pursuit of social justice and the protection of wildlife and the environment address the root causes of injustice. The pages of this report give an insight into our partners’ efforts to this end. 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 2020

During the 2020 calendar year, Oak Foundation’s total net amount granted was USD 320.13 million. This figure includes 445 programme and Special Initiative grants, discretionary grants, refunds, and cancellations. Overall, Oak provided programme and Special Initiative grants to 410 organisations based in 44 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 18 million, with an average of USD 700,000.

We made 445 programme and Special Initiative grants to 410 organisations in 44 countries.

Programme grant-making in 2020*

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.

**Please note that this figure includes Special Initiative grants and a Wildlife, Conservation, and Trade grant that pertain to Zimbabwe.
### Total grant-making in 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discretionary grants</td>
<td>25.89 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refunds and cancellations</td>
<td>(1.37 M)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total regular grant-making</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Initiative grants</td>
<td>13.90 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net amount granted</td>
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### Total grant-making 2010-2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>158.32 M</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>149.90 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>159.90 M</td>
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<td>245.78 M</td>
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<td>216.88 M</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>217.07 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>221.70 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>357.19 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>294.05 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>320.13 M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

Capacity building develops leadership skills, as well as high-performing organisations and effective networks.

Oak’s capacity-building and organisational development enables our partners to have access to and funding for high-quality support. In 2020, ensuring the resilience of our partners in the face of the Covid-19 crisis was a natural priority. We addressed it through: learning and cooperation with other foundations; and providing support to not-for-profit organisations. The team also compiled a collection of key organisational resources, tools, and ideas to support not-for-profit organisations during Covid-19.

In addition, our capacity-building partners adapted their support in response to the current challenges. For example, in June, Resource Alliance inaugurated its global community online portal, which is a space of collaboration and innovation for fundraisers and changemakers worldwide. Thanks to the work of skilled volunteers at Catchafire, our partners had their immediate needs met for translation services and the development of communication materials.

In 2021, once we have a clearer picture of the impacts Covid-19 has had on our partners and grant-making in general, we aim to fine tune our capacity-building and organisational development support to suit partners’ long-term needs, and further strengthen their capacity to withstand future challenges.

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

Child Safeguarding

We are determined to put children first in all that we do. In the interest of protecting all children everywhere, we ask our partners to do the same.

Oak envisions a world where children are protected from all forms of abuse and exploitation and where their rights and safety are respected. Safeguarding children is everybody’s business and we take our responsibility seriously, which is why we hold Oak and our employees accountable to high standards of child protection. We put in place our first Child Safeguarding Policy in 2013 and adopted a revised version in 2018. We continue to keep our staff informed and aware of the importance of safeguarding; in 2020 we strengthened our intranet site with easily accessible information, references, and guidance.

In addition, we commissioned an external learning review of our child-safeguarding work to date, to develop a clear evidence-based way forward. The review covers how best to embed child safeguarding within our partner organisations. It also highlighted a number of positive changes that our partners have made in their safeguarding systems and practices. The report shows that Oak’s support has helped our partners progress to a level that they otherwise would not have achieved within the same timeframe. Please go to our website to see the review.

We will continue to accompany our partners on their safeguarding journeys, offering support and resources. If you are a partner of Oak Foundation, please speak to your programme officer to find out more about the support you can receive.
Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning

We know that social change is not a linear process. We believe in the importance of learning from success and failure to help us improve and adapt.

At Oak Foundation, we strive to combat injustice in society. To ensure we understand if and how our grant-making is being impactful, we created a dedicated monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) team two years ago. We believe in the importance of learning from success and failure to help us improve and adapt. We embrace a ‘do no harm’ principle in our funding, which means we seek to understand if our efforts are generating any negative, unintended effects for the people we want to serve.

In 2020, we developed a clear organisational strategy for monitoring, evaluation, and learning. Our strategy is built around three pillars: systems, people, and culture. Under each, we initiated different organisation-wide initiatives to increase our strategic learning capacities. Our programmes are actively creating spaces for reflection and intentional learning, and many have started to shape strong learning agendas.

Our work does not stop with our internal staff. This year we have collaborated with many of our intermediaries and partners to strengthen our collective ability to learn together and from each other.

We are already seeing how these investments are improving how we fund, and how they are helping us be better partners to grantee and funding partners with whom we share the same goals.

Communications

Good communications helps ensure transparency around our grant-making and elevates the voices of those who are the least heard.

In 2020, communications played a critical role in Oak’s response to the needs of our partners and staff during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In tandem with the IT department, the team rolled out a digital workplace, which was indispensable in facilitating communication among Oak from a distance. We also coordinated internal communications to help staff feel connected and able to work efficiently from home.

The Communications team redesigned the annual report and created new visual tools to better showcase the values of the Foundation and the work of our partners being carried out across the world, on subjects that touch all of Oak’s programmes. It is our honour to be able to raise the voices of the people that benefit from your great work.

Oak values communications as a vehicle for social change and provides funding for communication initiatives within our programmes. We also support capacity-building efforts to expand global and local efforts to improve communications. Please contact your programme officer if you are an Oak partner and would like to hear more.

Oak’s main communications channels are its website, newsletters, and annual reports, as well as through social media channels Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram. Please follow us! We love to hear success stories from our partners so please reach out to the Communications team at commdept@oakfnd.org and we will be happy to share.
The Covid-19 pandemic deeply affected many not-for-profit organisations. Early in the pandemic in 2020, Oak’s Trustees increased grant-making by more than USD 24 million to support our current grantee partners, as well as new partners working on the frontlines of the pandemic response. We were determined to face the worldwide uncertainty head on, and to continue providing unwavering support to our communities during these challenging times.

By the end of 2020, our Covid-specific grants helped strengthen vulnerable organisations and communities. We are proud to have committed to support our partners in ways that are guided by the US Council on Foundation’s philanthropy pledge and the European Foundation Centre’s statement of solidarity. Some of these elements have included moving project grants to core grants, modifying agreed outcomes, and adapting what we ask of our partners by postponing reporting requirements, site visits, and other demands on their time.

In 2020, children with learning differences had a harder time accessing resources while schools were shut down. Many children were more vulnerable to exploitation, online and offline. Lockdowns were dangerous for people in domestic violence situations, as they were unable to get away from their abusers, making shelters more important than ever. Oak’s support helped our partners and other not-for-profit organisations to: find emergency accommodation for those in need; give training to those who had lost access to employment or schooling; support women’s shelters and advice centres; protect the legal rights of students with learning disabilities to be taught; and protect children from sexual perpetration. In Brazil, our partners delivered emergency kits with food and hygiene equipment to indigenous villages. In India, hundreds of meals were produced daily for the homeless, and thousands of families who were facing problems accessing government food supplies were supported. Across the world, our partners brought hope, by: preventing the eviction of tenants; providing hospitals with urgent supplies; supporting the mental health of frontline workers; and distributing food, clothing, medicine and hygiene products.

Like many people, we are glad to see 2020 behind us and we are looking forward to 2021 and the promise it brings: vaccines are already being distributed and other therapies are being developed. “Now is the moment to join with our partners in order to build back better in ways that are more equitable and sustainable,” says Douglas Griffiths, President of Oak Foundation. “In addition to redoubled support to grassroots organisations, we have been supporting some of our Environment Programme partners to positively influence stimulus packages and economic recovery plans as a means to accelerate the changes that are needed.” A European Green Deal will lay the foundation for transforming the European continent into a low-carbon economy, achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, while improving social justice and protecting biodiversity. In addition, Oak has focused on partners working to improve the lives of women, children, or those experiencing homelessness. We believe that we can also “build back better” in the social sectors. Even in affluent nations, the pandemic exposed growing inequality. Through all of our work, but especially in our Covid-related grant-making, we want to be a force for greater inclusion and respect for human rights.

Throughout 2020, we were inspired by the compassion of our partners to help people and communities, as well as their tenacity and creativity in overcoming these extraordinary circumstances. In 2021, we hope to rise up stronger together, and to be more resilient and more determined than ever. We are looking forward to continuing to contribute to a positive future together with our partners, and to making this world a more equitable, inclusive, cleaner and just place to live – for everyone.
Grants

In 2020 we made 303 grants totalling more than USD 24 million in response to the Covid-19 crisis. All grants above USD 100,000 are listed here, by region. Some, with an asterix, are also listed elsewhere in the report.

Europe

- Accem
  USD 100,000
- Alliance for International Medical Action
  USD 100,000
- Brugernes Akademi
  USD 100,000
- Calala Fondo de Mujeres
  USD 100,000
- Care After Prison
  USD 100,000
- Caring in Bristol
  USD 100,000
- Caritas Canary Islands
  USD 100,000
- Caritas Española
  USD 100,000
- Centre Social Protestant (CSP)
  USD 100,000
- Colegio General de Colegios Oficiales de Psicólogos
  USD 100,000
- Crisis UK
  USD 100,000
- Cruz Roja Espanola (Spanish Red Cross)
  USD 200,000
- Diocesan Caritas of the Canary Islands *
  USD 1,000,000
- European Choice
  USD 100,000
- Ex Cathedra
  USD 100,000
- Fond’imad
  USD 100,000
- FødevareBanken
  USD 100,000
- Gadejuristen
  USD 100,000
- Glasgow Children’s Hospital Charity
  USD 100,000
- Imkaan
  USD 500,000
- Imperial College London
  USD 100,000
- Indvandrer Kvindecentre
  USD 100,000
- Irish Refugee Council
  USD 100,000
- Jesuit Refugee Service - Europe
  USD 100,000
- King’s College (Guy’s & St. Thomas Hospital Trust)
  USD 100,000
- Kirkens Korshær
  USD 100,000
- Marie Curie Cancer Care
  USD 100,000
- Médecins sans Frontières Spain
  USD 100,000
- Médecins sans Frontières Suisse
  USD 100,000
- Media Matters for Women
  USD 100,000
- Oxfam
  USD 200,000
- Oxford University
  USD 100,000
- Protezione Civile
  USD 100,000
- Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc.
  USD 100,000
- Royal Foundation of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge
  USD 649,351
- Solidarité Femmes Network
  USD 100,000
- Swiss Philanthropy Foundation
  USD 100,000
- The Mediterranean Women’s Fund
  USD 100,000
- The Priory of England and the Islands of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem
  USD 100,000
- The Voices Project
  USD 100,000
- Union Chapel
  USD 100,000
- University of Cambridge
  USD 100,000
- Vicar’s Relief Fund *
  USD 649,351
- WAWSCAS International
  USD 200,000
- Winterhilfe Schweiz – Secours Suisse d’Hiver
  USD 100,000

Africa

- African Child Policy Forum
  USD 100,000
- FNB Philanthropy Donor
  Choice Foundation Trust
  USD 100,000
- Malasili Initiatives Inc
  USD 100,000
- Médecins sans Frontières Suisse (MSF Switzerland) *
  USD 400,000
- Peninsula School Feeding Association
  USD 100,000
- Solidarité Féminine pour la Paix et le Développement Intégral
  USD 100,000
- South Africa National Parks
  USD 100,000
- Terre des Hommes Lausanne
  USD 100,000
- Wildlife Crime Prevention
  USD 100,000

*The grants listed here with an asterix are also listed elsewhere in the grant sections of various programmes in this report.

Caption page 10: Volunteers from Serve the City Geneva assemble food parcels for those in need during the 2020 Covid-19 crisis at a warehouse of Partage, a foodbank in Geneva, Switzerland.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Grant Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>Doctors for You</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oxfam India</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society India</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Traidcraft Exchange UK</td>
<td>USD 100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Praxis – Institute for Participatory Practices *</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States &amp; Canada</td>
<td>Amalgamated Charitable Foundation Inc.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>American Civil Liberties Union Foundation Inc</td>
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<td>Blueprint NC</td>
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<td>Boston Medical Center Corporation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Boys &amp; Girls Clubs of America</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Center for Economic and Social Rights</td>
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<td>Center for Economic Democracy</td>
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<td>Child Mind Institute Inc</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Community Empowerment Fund</td>
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<td></td>
<td>DonorsChoose</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Duke University</td>
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<td></td>
<td>First Nations Development Institute</td>
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<td>Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina</td>
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<td>Footsteps</td>
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<td>Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives</td>
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<td>Harlem Children’s Zone</td>
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<td>Illisaqvik Society</td>
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<td>Inter-Faith Food Shuttle</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lenawee Community Foundation</td>
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<td>Montefiore Medical Center</td>
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<td></td>
<td>National Law Center for Homelessness and Poverty</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nest, Inc.</td>
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<td>New York City Health and Hospitals</td>
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<td>The Conservation Fund *</td>
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<td>Tides Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Transcend</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

*The grants listed here with an asterix are also listed elsewhere in the grant sections of various programmes in this report.*
The Environment Programme has three elements to its strategy: Climate Change, Marine Conservation and Wildlife, Conservation, and Trade (WCT).

In this year’s annual report, we focus on WCT, which envisions a regenerative conservation system that enables ‘living landscapes’. These involve people-focused conservation approaches that support productive, resilient rural networks that deter overexploitation while safeguarding wildlife and wild spaces. WCT’s goal over the next five years is to support living landscapes in regions across Southern Africa and Southeast Asia, while continuing to disrupt illegal wildlife trade.

To achieve a state of natural security for living landscapes, WCT will also support systemic changes that enable a regenerative conservation sector able to withstand disruption and uncertainty. We hope to see transformative change: the revival of a conservation paradigm centred on creating critical connectivity between people and their wild places.

Please check out our website in spring 2021 to read about the Environment Programme’s new strategy.
When conservation is done right, we can all live together harmoniously in ways that benefit both humans and nature.

When we don’t live in harmony with nature, we quickly see the consequences. In the last year, the world has watched wildfires raging from the Western United States to Australia. The global economy ground to halt due to a virus suspected to have spread from bats to people through wild food markets. And David Attenborough issued a clarion call for biodiversity on Instagram that reached one million followers in less than five hours!

Nature has spoken, the science is clear, and the markets are listening. If we keep exploiting wildlife and destroying our ecosystems, then we can expect to see increased water and food insecurity, and more diseases spreading from animals to humans. The effects are global. They include economic recessions and an ensuing decline in law, order, and peace. We believe that it is time to change our approach to biodiversity in conservation work.

It is time to revive a conservation paradigm centred on creating critical connections between people and nature. We envision ‘living landscapes’ – resilient rural networks of people able to resist exploitation, while safeguarding wildlife and wild spaces. Oak’s Wildlife, Conservation and Trade sub-programme, which falls under our Environment Programme, will support these living landscapes over the next five years in Southern Africa and Southeast Asia. This will be done by supporting organisations that: strengthen rural collectives to improve local distribution of benefits from natural wealth; connect networks that share socio-ecological aims across the sector; and provide a more efficient system that connects funders and decision-makers to new facets and faces of conservation. Read on to find out more about the work of our partners and to understand how this strategy comes to life.

Supporting rural collectives

The seeds for a new conservation approach were sown in South Africa’s Barberton Makhonjwa Mountain World Heritage Site in July 2020. Rather than the conventional, conservative response to rescuing orphan rhinos, Care for Wild (CFW), the largest orphan rhino sanctuary in the world and Barberton Nature Reserve, forged trusted
partnerships with key institutions and people from local communities. It formed a consortium, which shares the vision of providing for the long-term financial support of the conservation area, through market-based approaches. This will include: a comprehensive commercial agricultural programme jointly owned and run by CFW; a pioneering plan for pastoralism; and a new approach to collaboration with historical gold mines for conservation outcomes. This will be achieved through investments into multi-generational annuity funds and pay-outs linked to joint management plans that have been agreed on by the community, conservation staff, and stakeholders. This means that the project will secure free-ranging white and black rhinoceros populations within a healthy and secure ecosystem, underpinned by profitable projects, which ensure financial sustainability and equitable participation by the community. This has helped garner the full support of all who live and work in the area. “Our vision of inclusive community involvement addresses some of these global challenges we face together,” says Nico Oosthuizen, director at Care for Wild.

Connecting funders to new facets of conservation

The International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF) is at the forefront of building political will to improve governance of natural resources. It coordinates interactions between the United States and international policy makers, conservation organisations, and government agencies in support of conservation programmes.

“Good partnerships help us to reach our goals and achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.”

Nico Oosthuizen

At the same time, ICCF also supported similar efforts in Southern Africa in Angola, Botswana, and South Africa. The hope is that decision-makers directing resources for international conservation can speak directly to the decision-makers who are managing the world’s natural resources on the other side of the globe.

Oak supports individuals and collectives working in conservation to build effective land and wildlife management programmes. Our partners aim to create economic opportunities and tangible economic investments that do not industrialise or exploit the landscape, contribute to the loss of social or natural value, or fundamentally damage its ecological integrity. We believe that together we can build a resilient future. If you want to know more about what our Wildlife, Conservation, and Trade sub-programme is doing, check out the Environment Programme’s strategy page on our website.

Caption: The photos on this page represent the work of Care for Wild, which forges trusted partnerships with people from local communities in order to provide a healthy, secure ecosystem for rhinos, underpinned by financial sustainability.
Grants

Climate Change

350.org
USD 2,000,000 (3 years)
To provide core support to 350.org to provide movement building support to the climate movement.

C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group
USD 3,000,000 (3 years)
To support C40 to help build an equitable future where no one gets left behind.

Centre for Countering Digital Hate
USD 100,000 (6 months)
To support Centre for Countering Digital Hate by shining a spotlight on digital misinformation platforms that are polluting the public discourse on issues such as climate action, women's rights, and racial equality.

China Dialogue Trust
USD 500,001 (3 years)
To strengthen China Dialogue Trust’s strategic network and influence in Asia and Latin America.

Climate Action Network International
USD 497,960 (4 years)
To bring justice to those most affected by climate change, and to put climate impacts at the centre of political agenda conversations to ensure governments respond to the climate emergency.

ClimateWorks Foundation
USD 250,000 (1 year)
To enable co-creation of the Healthy Food, Healthy Planet (Europe) initiative that aims to build a movement for less and better animal protein and good alternatives.

Council on Energy Environment and Water (CEEW)
USD 599,995 (2 years)
To provide a core support grant to CEEW India for clean energy policy research.

Eating Better (UK)
USD 300,000 (2 years)
To support the UK coalition Eating Better alliance in its work to stimulate a 50 per cent reduction in meat and dairy consumption in the UK by 2030, and to improve meat and dairy standards.

Edelgive Foundation
USD 100,000 (1 year)
To bring communications around climate into the mainstream and to build a climate narrative with a wide base of Indian philanthropies and business leaders.

Energy Foundation
USD 5,000,000 (3 years)
To support the Energy Foundation’s China strategy to phase out coal and achieve a clean energy transformation.

Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide
USD 500,000 (3 years)
To build a global body of skilled lawyers working to protect coasts and oceans.

European Climate Foundation (ECF)
USD 7,000,000 (3 years)
To enable ECF to continue its high-impact programme of work as the cornerstone of climate philanthropy and build European leadership to secure a cleaner, safer, and healthier future.

European Climate Foundation
USD 297,158 (1 year)
To use strategic communications tools and tactics to inform key decision-makers in relation to campaigning for less and better meat.

European Climate Foundation
USD 18,000,000 (3 years)
To accelerate the transition from coal to clean power in Europe and South, Southeast and East Asia.

European Federation for Transport and Environment T&E
USD 400,000 (1 year)
To accelerate the uptake of electric vehicles in Europe and support efforts to decarbonise the aviation sector.

Feedback UK
USD 149,329 (1 year)
To encourage supermarkets in the UK to adopt corporate policies and in-store practice, which incentivises healthy and sustainable levels of animal protein consumption.

Graduate Institute Geneva
USD 64,583 (10 months)
To establish a merit-based internship programme within Oak’s Environment Programme, in Geneva, Switzerland.

Green New Deal UK
USD 100,000 (1 year)
To help enable a cleaner, safer and more inclusive recovery to the Covid-19 pandemic in the UK.

Institute for Transportation and Development (ITDP)
Policy Brazil
USD 622,433 (3 years)
To strengthen ITDP Brazil’s mission of promoting an environmentally sustainable and equitable transport system in Brazil.

Instituto Clima e Sociedade
USD 1,200,000 (3 years)
To support decision-makers to act in favour of a low-carbon energy transition in Brazil.

Instituto Clima e Sociedade
USD 200,000 (2 years)
To support the creation of a Climate Emergency Fund in Brazil, which will support the rapid response of civil society organisations in the event of damaging events to the environment and environmental organisations.

Instituto ClimaInfo
USD 500,000 (3 years)
To improve strategy, messaging, and communications efforts among civil society organisations engaged in environmental civil society in Brazil.

Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc. (NRDC)
USD 2,500,000 (3 years)
To strengthen NRDC’s strategic climate and clean energy engagement in China and India.

President & Fellows of Harvard College
USD 503,000 (3 years)
To advance knowledge and support the development of innovative science and technology-oriented policy solutions to address India’s climate and energy challenges.

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc.
USD 100,000 (6 months)
To provide support to the Urban Movement Innovation Fund, which will support organisations in the global south to build climate movements strategically and collaboratively.

Rocky Mountain Institute
USD 1,500,000 (3 years)
To enable the rapid transition of economies to clean energy solutions.

Sentience Politics
USD 250,000 (2 years)
To ban factory farming in Switzerland, and raise the minimum welfare standards to those currently required in organic farming.

The Sunrise Project
USD 1,500,000 (3 years)
To mobilise the global finance community to transition towards investments in clean power.

University of Chicago (The)
USD 499,996 (2 years)
To design policy innovations that create incentives necessary to reduce the environmental costs of energy use, and to improve the functioning of markets that deliver energy to people in India.

Vasudha Foundation
USD 201,121 (2 years)
To support the development of a state-based civil society organisation-led platform on climate action in India.
Marine

As You Sow
USD 600,002 (3 years)
To ensure global consumer goods, retail, and fast food companies reduce single-use plastic, increase recyclability, and transition to reuse and refill alternatives.

Biodiversity Funders Group
USD 120,000 (2 years)
To build the biodiversity and conservation philanthropy field by bringing together groups and organizations working in grant-making related to biodiversity protection.

EAT Foundation
USD 573,572 (2 years)
To conduct a robust, high-impact scientific assessment on food from ocean and freshwater systems.

Environment Funders Canada
USD 96,924 (1 year)
To create the enabling conditions to support Canada’s ability to achieve its marine conservation protection targets by 2025 and by 2030.

Environmental Defense Inc
USD 400,000 (3 years)
To advance fishing fleet transparency, accountability, and compliance with regulations in priority geographies and lay the foundation for implementing innovative, science-based best practices in fisheries monitoring.

Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives Philippines
USD 100,000 (1 year)
To support the Break Free from Plastic movement by promoting The Story of Plastic documentary, which focuses on the real cause of the plastic pollution crisis.

Greenpeace Fund, Inc
USD 900,000 (3 years)
To escalate global pressure on fast-moving consumer goods companies worldwide to phase out single-use plastics.

Hen Mpoano
USD 607,500 (3 years)
To strengthen government and industry commitment to improve fisheries governance in Ghana and the West African region.

International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management, also known as Worldfish
USD 150,000 (21 months)
To support and secure small-scale fisheries amidst transformational change.

MakeWay
USD 1,500,000 (3 years)
To support the MakeWay Foundation to empower Inuit leaders and communities facing challenges with marine stewardship and climate change resilience in the Canadian Arctic.

Nature Conservancy, The
USD 1,350,000 (3 years)
To support Global Mangrove Watch and its online platform that uses remote sensing data to provide universal access to near real-time information on mangrove ecosystems and habitat changes around the world.

New Venture Fund
USD 365,000 (3 years)
To house the Opportunities Fund for Alaskan Arctic Marine Stewardship at the Alaska Venture Fund, a new philanthropic fund dedicated to a sustainable future for Alaska.

Oceana Action
USD 100,000 (10 months)
To stop offshore oil drilling in the United States.

Oceana Inc
USD 650,000 (2 years)
To support Oceana’s plastics campaigning to achieve national, local, state, and provincial policies that restrict single use plastic items.

Seas at Risk
USD 230,801 (20 months)
To protect the unique Arctic ecosystem and its residents through a ban on the use and carriage of Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) in Arctic shipping by 2021.

Stimson Center
USD 250,000 (2 years)
To facilitate discussion on fishing transparency among members of civil society from priority geographies, in order to agree on recommendations to present to the governments of coastal states.

Trygg Mat Tracking
USD 700,000 (3 years)
To support the implementation of the Port State Measure Agreement in several African countries and to participate in Fisheries Transparency dialogue processes.

Wildlife Conservation Society
USD 500,000 (2 years)
To boost worldwide implementation of the Food and Agricultural Organization of Small Scale Fisheries Voluntary Guidelines in terms of governance, markets, and gender.

WWF International
USD 985,000 (42 months)
To facilitate the development of an international movement of communities, civil society organisations, and relevant institutions to accelerate and scale coastal community-led conservation efforts.

Zero Waste Europe
USD 800,000 (3 years)
To support Zero Waste Europe and its Rethink Plastic alliance coalition partners to position the European Union and its member states as global champions for solutions to the plastics pollution crisis.

Wildlife, Conservation, and Trade

Environmental Investigation Agency (UK)
USD 584,416 (3 years)
To enhance and coordinate international responses that support conservation efforts.

Frankfurt Zoological Society*
USD 1,080,000 (17 months)
To support the conservation of the Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe.

Gorongosa Restoration Project Inc
USD 2,000,000 (2 years)
To provide core support to Gorongosa Restoration Project Inc in order to protect and expand the conservation landscape in Mozambique.

Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation
USD 99,922 (1 year)
To support the initiatives of local communities in Namibia so that livelihood enhancement efforts are aligned with the management of protected areas.

Kwando Carnivore Project
USD 608,510 (3 years)
To increase tolerance to wildlife living in and around communities in northeastern Namibia, Africa.

The Care for Wild Rhino Sanctuary
USD 680,418 (2 years)
To expand and secure a reserve for rewilding orphaned rhinos in South Africa through community partnerships.

Wildlife Conservation Network
USD 1,000,000 (2 years)
To support the launch of a new Rhino Recovery Fund to resource community projects in and around protected areas that will encourage wild rhino populations in Africa and Asia.

Wildlife Crime Prevention
USD 2,832,401 (3 years)
To provide core support to Wildlife Crime Prevention to protect the wildlife in Zambia and to extend this protection to other countries in the region.

Wildlife Justice Commission (WJC)
USD 996,703 (18 months)
To provide core support to WJC to continue its efforts in investigating wildlife trafficking syndicates globally and improving conservation efforts.

Cross sub-programme

International Funders for Indigenous Peoples
USD 90,000 (3 years)
To foster partnership and understanding among Indigenous Peoples and funders around the globe.

* The Frankfurt Zoological Society grant is also featured in the Zimbabwe grant section of this report, on page 52.
Housing and Homelessness

Ensuring access to a secure and stable home, enabling people to live dignified lives in a fairer society

A safe and secure home is fundamental to a fairer society. Far too many people are under constant pressure of losing their homes. The structural causes of homelessness include: economic inequality and unemployment; discrimination and racism; and the lack of affordable housing. All too often housing is seen as a commodity, and as such, a significant power imbalance persists for people experiencing homelessness and with the greatest housing need.

Homelessness is preventable. Genuinely affordable and suitable housing must be within reach for everyone. This is why the Housing and Homelessness Programme supports projects that work to challenge and resolve the systemic causes of homelessness in the United Kingdom and the United States. We fund not-for-profit organisations that are ambitious in their strategies to address structural inequalities – from testing new approaches to scaling up what works.

We are grateful to all our grantee partners for their dedication and achievements in 2020. You can read about these on the following pages.
Ensuring equitable housing opportunities for everyone

In 2020, equitable access to secure, stable, and decent housing has mattered more than ever before. In a time of crisis, our partners in the housing sector came together, across countries, to house those experiencing street homelessness, prevent evictions, give emergency relief and support, and to strengthen campaigning and advocacy to ensure that everyone was safely housed.

In the UK, as soon the national lockdown was announced in March 2020, Crisis, along with many other not-for-profit organisations, immediately negotiated with the government to ensure all people currently experiencing street homelessness were securely placed in hotels. The ‘Everybody In’ campaign coordinated the use of hotel and emergency accommodation. A total of GBP 3.2 million in funds were allocated to local authorities, with clear instructions to ensure no individual was left sleeping on the streets.

In the US, the introduction of the bi-partisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act saw immediate funding put into tackling homelessness during the pandemic. To influence the passage of the Act, the National Low Income Housing Coalition brought together 850 housing organisations across the country, known as the Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition. It included USD 4 billion for emergency solutions grants for homelessness assistance. This was a significant increase on the USD 1 billion that was proposed by the government.

Preventing evictions
Alongside protecting those who were homeless during the pandemic, there was huge concern for those living in the private rented sector, due to the risk of eviction. As soon as lockdown began in England, Generation Rent mobilised thousands of renters to write to their MPs. Within days, a national ban on evictions was announced. Generation Rent successfully pushed for extensions to the eviction ban, which continued to September 2020.

Now that the eviction ban has lifted, a landlord can serve their tenants with a Section 21 ‘no fault’ eviction notice. Therefore, Generation Rent is stepping up its campaign to ensure the government delivers on its pledge to scrap Section 21.

“Section 21, where a landlord can evict a renter without giving a reason, is the number one cause of homelessness,” said Alicia Kennedy, director of Generation Rent. “That’s why Generation Rent is so proud that our ‘End Unfair Evictions’ campaign led to the UK Government committing to end Section 21. Now this legislation urgently needs to be published to make sure renters who have been hit hard by the pandemic do not lose their home through no fault of their own.”

“Generation Rent is proud that our ‘End Unfair Evictions’ campaign led to the UK Government committing to end Section 21.”
Alicia Kennedy

In the US, our partners campaigned for eviction moratoria in different states. For example, in Philadelphia, the Reinvestment Fund engaged with local officials to participate in the City of Philadelphia’s efforts to design and implement emergency housing legislation to stop evictions. When a group of landlords filed a lawsuit in an attempt to halt the legislation, Reinvestment Fund provided an affidavit and succeeded in defending the moratorium. The affidavit connected eviction patterns with data on the health and economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.
The US-based National Fair Housing Alliance works to eliminate housing discrimination to ensure equal housing opportunity for everyone, including for Aaliyah and Maya, featured right. You can read about their story below.

That document has served as an essential point of reference beyond the life of the initial lawsuit for which it was written.

**Black Lives Matter**

Like many others in the sector, we were deeply moved by the response to the murder of George Floyd and the attention paid to the Black Lives Matter movement. Tackling systemic racism continues to inform our grant-making portfolio. We are proud to fund Ujima in Boston, which provides loans to businesses owned by people of colour, thus addressing inequality. Ujima members include business owners, managers, and entrepreneurs who are committed to advancing social and economic justice through the private sector. Ujima businesses align their corporate practices with their values, by creating good jobs, sharing ownership and wealth, meeting local needs, and generating community benefits.

We also provide core support to the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA), a national organisation headquartered in Washington DC, with over 200 member organisations across the country in 40 states. NFHA is the voice of fair housing and works to eliminate housing discrimination to ensure equal housing opportunity for all people through leadership, education, outreach, membership services, public policy initiatives, community development, advocacy, and enforcement.

In one successful win, NFHA and two local fair housing groups filed a lawsuit challenging the policy of Asset Campus Housing Inc., one of the largest property management companies in the US, which discriminated against families with children. This was done on behalf of students like Maya, a single mother, and her two-year old daughter, Aaliyah. Maya, a student of psychology at the University of Louisville in Kentucky, was a tenant of Asset Campus Housing. One day, she received a call from her landlord stating that due to single occupancy regulations, she would have to obtain a separate lease for two-year old Aaliyah. Instead of living together in a large one-bedroom unit under one lease, there had to be two separate leases for both mother and child in order to be able to stay in the unit — one in Maya’s name and the other in Aaliyah’s name — thus doubling the rent.

For two years, Maya worked two and sometimes even three jobs to try to make ends meet. Inevitably, the double rent proved too much. She eventually had to drop out of school and forego the college degree she hoped would enable her to provide a better life for Aaliyah.

Indeed, without stable housing, it is almost impossible for single parents on low income to successfully attend school. That is why Maya, NFHA, and two local fair housing groups filed a lawsuit challenging Asset Campus Housing’s policy that discriminated against families with children.

In March 2020, NFHA announced a settlement agreement with Asset Campus Housing, Inc., eliminating the policy throughout the country and providing relief to Maya and Aaliyah. The resolution of this case resulted in providing families with children access to 140,000 beds throughout 40 states and 77 cities.

We have been so inspired by the strong leadership and commitment of all our partners in what has been a difficult year. We are grateful to all our partners who have advocated for and supported thousands of people to beat homelessness, as well as increase rights for renters and secure access to safe, stable, and decent housing.

In 2021, the Housing and Homeless Programme team will review its strategies and funding priorities to ensure that we continue to support and strengthen organisations that are as committed as we are to ending homelessness and ensuring a secure home for everyone. Our website page will be updated in due course, so make sure to check it out!

**Caption:** The photos in the Housing and Homelessness section of the report represent the efforts of our partners to help provide secure and decent housing for everyone.
Grants

Economic self-sufficiency

Center for Responsible Lending
USD 1,500,000 (5 years)
To provide core support to the Center for Responsible Lending to help it eliminate abusive financial practices that disproportionately impact low- and moderate-income families and people of colour in the United States.

Groundswell UK
USD 300,316 (3 years)
To increase opportunities for people with lived experience of homelessness to progress into roles in the health and social care sector.

Justice in Aging (formerly National Senior Citizens Law Center)
USD 831,977 (3 years)
To prevent homelessness among older adults and people with disabilities in the US, by increasing access to income support programmes, primarily Supplemental Security Income, which provides a critical source of income for many older people.

Law Centre NI
USD 564,712 (3 years)
To provide support to migrant groups, including asylum seekers, victims of trafficking, refugees, and others who have migrated to Northern Ireland.

New Horizon Youth Centre
USD 397,813 (3 years)
To improve best practice and policy for young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in London and the UK.

Turn2Us
USD 399,232 (3 years)
To support Turn2Us to improve its approaches by: working with those who have lived experience of poverty; and influencing policy change.

Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG)
USD 1,298,701 (5 years)
To provide core support to CPAG in its work to prevent child and family poverty in the UK.

Crisis UK
USD 97,403 (1 year)
To support Crisis to work with Welsh local authorities to identify why people are being excluded from the Housing Wales Act and how to address this.

Greater Boston Legal Services
USD 1,700,000 (5 years)
To provide core support to Greater Boston Legal Services in its work providing legal aid to individuals and families in Boston, Massachusetts, United States, to help them meet their basic needs.

Harrow Law Centre
USD 390,779 (3 years)
To reduce the number of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Harrow, London through the provision of legal advice and representation by the Harrow Law Centre.

Homes for Families
USD 350,000 (5 years)
To provide support to Homes for Families, which works to amplify the voices of homeless families in Boston and highlight systemic barriers and gaps in services.

Housing Rights Service
USD 2,012,987 (5 years)
To help ensure people in Northern Ireland have a decent, safe, and affordable place to live.

Inquest Charitable Trust
USD 467,532 (4 years)
To provide support to Inquest Charitable Trust to continue its work to support Grenfell Tower survivors and the bereaved.

Justice Collaborations
USD 1,298,701 (3 years)
To improve access to justice for people in the immigration system in the UK by enhancing access to good legal advice.

London Renters Union
USD 223,121 (4 years)
To strengthen the power of renters in London by establishing a new branch of the London Renters Union in the city.

Mayday Trust
USD 382,200 (3 years)
To instigate change in the social care system in the UK by attracting organisations and individuals in the sector to adopt person-led, transitional, and strength-based responses.
Neighbors Together
USD 600,000 (4 years)
To provide core support to end hunger and poverty through Neighbors Together’s community café in Brooklyn, New York City.

Public Law Project (PLP)
USD 1,298,701 (4 years)
To provide the PLP in the UK with an unrestricted core grant to support it to improve access to legal remedies for those whose access to justice is restricted by poverty or other forms of disadvantage.

Sandwell African and Caribbean Mental Health Foundation
USD 415,584 (5 years)
To provide support to Sandwell African and Caribbean Mental Health Foundation in the UK, which delivers a range of mental health services in particular to Black people recovering from severe and enduring mental ill health.

Shelter from the storm (SFTS)
USD 55,735 (1 year)
To support SFTS in its work to offer a wrap-around care package to people experiencing homelessness in London, the UK and to develop a five-year strategy to improve and expand services offered.

Vicar’s Relief Fund *
USD 649,351 (1 year)
To make small grants to homeless and vulnerable people through a Covid-19 Emergency Fund.

Increasing the supply of low-income housing

First Housing Aid & Support Services
USD 433,474 (3 years)
To support SmartMove to provide good quality and affordable housing to 285 new tenants in Northern Ireland.

National Low Income Housing Coalition
USD 1,500,000 (5 years)
To increase the provision of decent, accessible, affordable homes for extremely low-income households in the US, including those experiencing homelessness.

New Venture Fund
USD 1,500,000 (3 years)
To support the Funders for Housing and Opportunity to improve life outcomes for those who are rent-burdened and experiencing homelessness across the US.

New York City Joint Ownership Entity
USD 490,000 (2 years)
To increase the New York City Joint Ownership Entity (JOE) portfolio to 3,500 units, at which point, JOE will become self-sufficient.

Pine Street Inn
USD 2,000,000 (10 years)
To provide Pine Street Inn, based in Boston, with a grant for an endowment fund, that will provide a permanent income stream towards the funding of their supported housing.

Learning

CharityWorks
USD 55,195 (1 year)
To place talented individuals with frontline experience from diverse and working-class communities within the philanthropic sector in the UK and provide them with leadership training and individual coaching.

Community Service Society of New York
USD 687,651 (3 years)
To elevate the experiences of low-income New Yorkers in policy discussions that will impact their ability to remain in their homes.

Heriot-Watt University
USD 206,713 (2 years)
To generate rich empirical evidence that can be used to inform the development of interventions that have the potential to prevent, ameliorate and/or resolve severe and multiple disadvantages experienced by women.

National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH)
USD 1,750,000 (5 years)
To provide core support to NAEH, which is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organisation that uses research and data to find solutions for homelessness in the US.

National Housing Institute dba ShelterForce
USD 375,000 (3 years)
To enable Shelterforce to conduct investigative journalism which will complement its independent media content.

Pro Bono Economics
USD 367,922 (2 years)
To strengthen the resilience of small- to medium-sized UK HHP partners.

Revolving Doors Agency
USD 99,043 (1 year)
To pilot a grassroots leader fellowship programme to offer free access to college credits and link activists with community leaders and other students to strengthen organising in New York.

Social Care Institute for Excellence
USD 179,221 (3 years)
To support Oak Foundation’s UK partners to ensure that their child safeguarding policies, procedures and practices are compliant with UK law and represent good practice.

Other

Face to Face
USD 460,000 (4 years)
To strengthen Face to Face’s housing stability initiative in Philadelphia, which aims to strengthen the legal service to assist low-income clients with safe and secure housing.

Hope Projects
USD 499,871 (5 years)
To prevent destitution for homeless asylum seekers by expanding Hope Projects’ legal services to ensure all claimants have accurate information to proceed efficiently.

Praxis Community Projects
USD 1,038,961 (66 months)
To enable frontline organisations and public bodies to better identify and address migrants’ needs and support sustainable pathways out of destitution and homelessness.

The City College of New York
USD 54,870 (1 year)
To pilot a grassroots leader fellowship programme to offer free access to college credits and link activists with community leaders and other students to strengthen organising in New York.

* The Vicar’s Relief Fund grant is also featured in the Covid-19 grant section of this report, on page 11.
Since 1948 the global community has developed an extensive body of international law and principles to protect human rights. But there remains a gulf between human rights rhetoric and the lived experience of so many people. We seek to help to close that gap.

Within the ending arbitrary detention and torture priority area of the International Human Rights Programme (IHRP), a key focus is on challenging the unnecessary use of pre-trial detention in criminal justice systems around the world. Unjustified detention undermines the presumption of innocence, has long-term negative impacts on families of detainees, and undermines efforts at rehabilitation.

In many countries, racism and other forms of discrimination are deeply embedded in the criminal justice system, meaning that unnecessary detention disproportionately punishes communities of colour and other marginalised groups. In the IHRP, we see the need to help address racism in prisons as a key lens to our work on pre-trial detention. The story on the following pages illustrates our partners’ efforts in this regard.
Addressing racism in prisons worldwide

“Ending mass incarceration is crucial for racial justice all over the world. That’s only possible through the collective power of strong, diverse social movements led by the most affected communities, especially communities of colour,” says Allyne Andrade, deputy director of the Brazil Human Rights Fund.

Racism and discrimination around the world manifest clearly in criminal justice systems. From discriminatory policing to the denial of basic due process rights, marginalised communities are frequently the subject of unfair and unequal treatment. In many countries, racism and other forms of discrimination are deeply embedded in criminal justice systems. In the International Human Rights Programme, we see the need to address racism in prisons as a key lens to our work on ending unnecessary pre-trial detention.

A global problem

In 2013, Oak began supporting not-for-profit organisations working in the criminal justice sector in Brazil, India, and across Europe. These organisations seek to reduce arbitrary pre-trial detention, and to stop torture and police violence. Our partners quickly showed us that in these countries there are various forms of racism and discrimination.

Brazil has the third most incarcerated people (roughly 770,000) in the world. Black people are significantly overrepresented compared to the general population. In 2019 alone, the police killed over 5,800 people, of which the vast majority were Black. Conditions in detention centres are overcrowded, unsanitary, and regularly violent, with little regard for basic human rights or possibilities for rehabilitation.

In India, recently released data by the Indian National Crime Records Bureau showed that a range of ethnic and religious minorities are overrepresented in prisons. For example, Dalits and tribal people make up 21 per cent and 10.5 per cent of pre-trial detainees respectively, even though they only constitute 16.6 per cent and 8.6 per cent of the total Indian population. These statistics are especially concerning given that nearly 70 per cent of all incarcerated people are being held pre-trial – a total of 330,487 individuals.

In Europe, while there are not any official statistics which are disaggregated by race or other ethnicity, research by academics and not-for-profit organisations indicate similar problems. For example, in the UK, Black and minority ethnic people make up 27 per cent of all incarcerated people, yet only comprise 14 per cent of the total UK population.

A growing voice

Oak supports not-for-profit organisations that seek to address the clear evidence of racism in criminal justice systems. These organisations work to raise the voices of communities, in particular Black or minority groups, as well as communities who are under-represented in debates about public security and criminal justice reform.
In partnership with the Brazil Human Rights Fund, Oak has been supporting a number of not-for-profit organisations in Brazil. These include Cirola and Inegra, Black feminist organisations in Rio de Janeiro and Ceará respectively, which work with women in pre-trial detention. We also support CFNTX, a Black youth-led organisation in Para, and NAJUP in Matto Grosso do Sul, which focuses on helping Indigenous people in prison. In addition, Amparar, Rede de Movimentos e Comunidades contra a Violência, and Eu sou Eu work with formerly incarcerated people, or with friends and family members of incarcerated people. They also seek to build better respect for the rights of individuals in contact with the justice system in Brazil, and to help raise their voices.

Additionally, several of our partners are beginning to explore race and privilege more deeply within their own organisations. As in many countries, traditional not-for-profit organisations active in the criminal justice space are often concentrated in major capital cities and employ few people from affected communities.

Our partner Conectas, which works to defend and promote the realisation of human rights and contribute to the consolidation of the rule of law in the global south, has sought to ensure that it better represents the communities it serves. “We felt it was very important to mirror the change that we want to see in society, and to show that it is possible to change,” says Juana Kweitel, executive director of Conectas. “Embedding a racial equity lens has had a very profound impact, not only on the work of Conectas, but also on a personal level for all members of staff. It was a long overdue obligation.”

“We felt that it was very important to mirror the change that we want to see in society, and to show that it is possible to change.”

Juana Kweitel

Accountability matters
Basic due process guarantees that hold criminal justice systems accountable also remain important safeguards. In particular, early access to counsel is key in addressing discriminatory and violent policing practices. It is also central to mitigating some of the due process violations that expose marginalised groups to long-term violations of their rights within the criminal justice system.

The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative and Human Rights Law Network have sought to increase access to lawyers in India, either through the establishment of direct legal aid programmes or by advocating for the creation of legal aid clinics in police stations or courts, which are currently being rolled out in the country. They have also sought to strengthen accountability mechanisms by documenting police violence and seeking greater accountability under the Scheduled Castes and Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, as well as directly with vulnerable communities.

Discrimination has many facets
Our partners know the importance of recognising and addressing differing forms of discrimination present in many societies. For example, in India, discrimination based on religion or caste is more prevalent than race. In Europe, partners such as the Bulgarian and Hungarian Helsinki Committees highlight the widespread discrimination against Roma communities in eastern European societies.

At Oak Foundation, we have found that integrating a lens that helps us see inherent discrimination more clearly is fundamental to an effective grant-making strategy. It has been key to strengthening the overall impact of our work. If you want to know more about what our International Human Rights Programme is doing, check out our website.

References: Please see page 62 of this report.

Caption: The photos in the International Human Rights Programme section of the report illustrate the work of our partners in their efforts to address racism and other forms of discrimination.
Grants

Broadening human rights constituencies

Assifero
USD 247,253 (2 years)
To promote a rights-based approach to Italian philanthropy and to streamline Italian philanthropic practice to meet the needs of Italian civil society.

Civil Liberties Union for Europe
USD 494,505 (3 years)
To support the capacity-building work of the Civil Liberties Union for Europe.

DOC Society Ltd
USD 450,000 (2 years)
To manage a film fund which will enable support of social justice documentaries and other storytelling.

European Human Rights Advocacy Centre
USD 186,000 (3 years)
To support two merit-based paid fellowship programmes.

Fund for Global Human Rights
USD 1,000,000 (2 years)
To strengthen the international human rights movement by closing the divide between frontline movements and traditional not-for-profit organisations.

Global Dialogue
USD 713,636 (5 years)
To support three philanthropic initiatives – Ariadne, the European network of human rights funders working towards positive social change; the Funders’ Initiative for Civil Society; and Migration Exchange – all hosted by Global Dialogue.

International Commission of Jurists
USD 100,000 (1 year)
To launch a fundraising drive to build a local and international constituency.

JustLabs
USD 475,000 (2 years)
To support Human Rights 2030, a project by JustLabs, to stimulate innovation in human rights documentation and campaigning.

Movies that Matter Foundation
USD 373,626 (3 years)
To encourage debate on human rights and social justice through human rights film events in the global south.

Network of European Foundations
USD 1,978,022 (3 years)
To strengthen democracy and solidarity in Europe through a grant to Civitas and to provide support to the European Artificial Intelligence Fund.

Our Cities
USD 250,000 (18 months)
To identify, train, and empower change agents to pursue high-impact mobilisation initiatives with respect to human rights.

Race Forward
USD 250,000 (2 years)
To support Race Forward’s development of the Immigrant Narrative Lab, which will work with a cohort of field narrative leaders to test, refine, and advance a pro-immigrant narrative system and set of narratives.

Rights and Security International
USD 493,506 (18 months)
To support the internationalisation of Rights and Security International’s operations, enabling it to deliver on its new global strategy.

Centre for Studies on Truth, Memory and Justice
USD 1,033,000 (5 years)
To uncover the truth about grave violations of human rights in Turkey, strengthen collective memory of those violations, and support survivors and other actors in their pursuit of justice.

Civitas Maxima
USD 700,000 (3 years)
To gather evidence on serious crimes and pursue accountability on behalf of victims, both nationally and internationally.

Goldsmiths, University of London
USD 605,325 (3 years)
To undertake advanced spatial and media investigations into cases of human rights violations, and innovate in investigative practice, presentation, and storytelling.

Human Rights First
USD 1,550,000 (3 years)
To support targeted US and EU sanctions (i.e., travel bans and asset freezes) on perpetrators of gross human rights abuses and corruption and to uphold the integrity of the US asylum system.

Independent Diplomat Inc.
USD 250,000 (2 years)
To support effective advocacy as an integral part of international diplomatic efforts to establish the truth and secure justice and accountability.

Institute for International Criminal Investigations (IICI)
USD 366,813 (2 years)
To train human rights activists and not-for-profit organisations in investigative techniques to document international crimes and build the fundraising capacity of the IICI.

Jagori
USD 100,000 (18 months)
To advance the realisation of “women’s rights are human rights”, the constitutional mandate of equality, non-discrimination, dignity, and a life free of violence in the public and private sphere, through the use of legal resources.

New Venture Fund
USD 1,200,000 (4 years)
To support the Sage Fund’s efforts to strengthen human rights accountability for economic actors globally.

SITU Studio
USD 500,000 (3 years)
To work with human rights organisations and courts to present evidence more persuasively and effectively through the application of spatial analysis and visualisation.

Southern Africa Litigation Centre
USD 236,270 (3 years)
To provide unrestricted programme support to the Southern African Litigation Centre’s Business and Human Rights and International Criminal Justice programmes.

The Guernica Centre for International Justice
USD 400,000 (3 years)
To support transnational and international accountability strategies to tackle impunity in nine countries.

TRIAL International
USD 625,000 (3 years)
To challenge the impunity of individuals and corporate actors involved in gross human rights violations and to secure redress for the victims of these crimes.

Videre
USD 233,766 (18 months)
To document and expose human rights violations and other systemic abuses in some of the world’s most oppressive and violent regimes.

Ending impunity

Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team
USD 1,650,000 (3 years)
To provide core support to apply forensic anthropology and related sciences to investigations of gross human rights violations.
Freedom from arbitrary detention and torture

Coalizione Italiana Libertà e Diritti Civili
USD 494,505 (3 years)
To support a coalition of Italian not-for-profit organisations working to improve immigrant and refugee rights, the rule of law, and equality rights.

Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI)
USD 935,553 (4 years)
To support the CHRI’s efforts to improve access to justice in India.

Gabinete de Assessoria Juridica as Organizacoes Populares (GAJOP)
USD 392,761 (2 years)
To provide core support to GAJOP to promote citizen-friendly public security policy and legal advice to victims of state violence in Recife, Brazil.

Jesuit Refugee Service
USD 989,011 (3 years)
To strengthen the work of the Jesuit Refugee Service – Europe.

Lighthouse Reports
USD 100,000 (1 year)
To expose human rights violations across the Mediterranean and counter anti-refugee disinformation and xenophobic narratives through investigative journalism.

Migration Policy Group (MPG)
USD 414,835 (3 years)
To support MPG, an independent think and do tank and thought partner, to secure progress towards more open and inclusive societies in Europe.

Nationality for All (NfA)
USD 100,000 (1 year)
To support NfA to promote collaboration on addressing statelessness in the Asia-Pacific region.

LGBTQI

Open For Business
USD 160,206 (3 years)
To provide core support to Open For Business Kenya, which works to engage businesses and civil society organisations in promoting LGBTQI rights.

Supporting and protecting human rights defenders

Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR)
USD 100,000 (1 year)
To support the implementation of CESR’s strategy ‘Envisioning a Rights-based Economy’ to enable the human rights movement to respond more effectively to the rights implications of the economic crisis triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Open Briefing
USD 584,416 (3 years)
To improve the physical safety, digital security, and psychological wellbeing of at-risk human rights activists and organisations, and to further consolidate the institutional basis and sustainability of Open Briefing.

Tactical Technology Collective (TTC)
USD 788,462 (3 years)
To provide core support to the TTC to advance the skills, tools, and techniques of human rights activists.

The Engine Room
USD 500,000 (3 years)
To provide core support to help activists in the safe and effective integration of data and technology in their work.
The Issues Affecting Women Programme (IAWP) provides grants and capacity-development support to organisations worldwide.

In 2020, we focused our efforts on supporting our new and existing partners and their communities and constituencies in the face of the global Covid-19 pandemic. Our support helped them to navigate the myriad of social and economic challenges brought on by Covid-19, on top of their usual work.

We support women’s organisations that: empower women to fully and equally participate in society; adopt a holistic approach, taking into consideration various contexts and cultures; and address root causes. The story on the following pages, which focuses on our Swiss-based partners, demonstrates this commitment.
Addressing gender inequality in Switzerland

While unequal power relations are created and perpetuated by legal, political, economic, and cultural systems, we believe there is great capacity to change these systems for the better of all. The Issues Affecting Women Programme supports women’s efforts to build, lead, and grow strong, vibrant, and influential movements that achieve equity and justice. We would like to highlight this process in action in Switzerland, where Oak has its main administrative office.

The symbol of the Swiss women’s movement has long been a snail – symbolising the slow rate of progress. Nowhere is this more evident than women’s suffrage, where Swiss women were only granted the right to vote in Federal elections in 1971. It took another 20 years and a Supreme Court decision for the last Swiss canton to grant women the right to vote on local issues. This rate of progress extends to other legal rights and protections. For example, marital rape in Switzerland was only criminalised in 1985. It was not until 2002 that Switzerland granted women the right to abortion, and maternity leave was not federally mandated until 2005. In fact, it was only in September 2020 that paternity leave in Switzerland was extended from one day to two weeks.

A related challenge for Swiss women has been obtaining their financial independence. Limited and expensive childcare options mean that many women drop out of the workforce once they start a family. Even when women stay employed, they are far more likely than men to reduce to part-time work. This drop in income has major implications, as current statistics estimate that one in eight Swiss women live below the poverty line. This income gap follows women into retirement, for whom pensions are 37 per cent lower than men’s.1

Perhaps the starkest indication of how the lack of gender equality has impacted Swiss society is the issue of violence. A dependent economic status makes it more likely that women stay in abusive relationships. Indeed, Switzerland has the highest reported cases of domestic violence of any western European country. A staggering 64 per cent of all murders committed in the country result from domestic violence.2 During the Covid-19 crisis, levels of domestic violence increased, with many shelters reporting an increased demand for services.

Helvetia is calling – Swiss women’s movement

Despite these challenges, women in Switzerland have long been fighting for their rights and have made important gains in recent years. In 1991, tired of the “snail’s pace” of progress on gender equality, 500,000 Swiss women organised a national strike. Chief among their demands was pay equity. Nearly 30 years later in 2019, when parliament again failed to pass an equal pay law, hundreds of thousands of Swiss women again took to the streets in protest demanding “higher pay, greater equality, and more respect.”

In addition, over the years there have been far fewer women than men elected to the Swiss Parliament. “Until 2019, more men named Hans had served in the Swiss Parliament than women,” said Sophie Achermann, director of Alliance F, the largest and oldest umbrella organisation for women in Switzerland. “We can and must do better.” And indeed, their calls were answered.
In 2019, for the first time in its history, more women were elected to the Swiss Parliament than men. Today, women make up 42 per cent of the Federal Parliament. Watch the video by our partner alliance F, called “Helvetia is calling”, by clicking on the link in the online version of this report, to find out more.

In Switzerland, there is clear momentum and an opportunity to address many of the systemic issues that have prevented women from attaining their full and equal rights. These include: updating the tax code so that married women are not being unfairly taxed; providing affordable universal childcare solutions for working families; and expanding services across the country so that all women experiencing violence have access to quality support. There is also the need to upend the status quo and challenge social norms to promote a more just and equal society.

Issues Affecting Women Programme (IAWP) grant-making in Switzerland
The IAWP has been supporting Swiss women’s organisations since its first grant in 2004, which was in support of FIZ in Zurich, a not-for-profit organisation that provides specialised services to victims of trafficking.

Since then, the programme has expanded its support to nine other organisations across the country to: support domestic violence services, including psychological violence; address trafficking and exploitation; support migrant women to overcome the additional barriers they face in accessing services and understand their rights; and strengthen women’s movement building. Watch the video of our partners by clicking on the link in the online version of this report, to find out more.

In 2020, we decided to refresh our strategy in order to be more responsive to the needs of women and to the opportunities on the horizon. “The Swiss Women’s Movement has really taken off in recent years and we have the chance to transform the snail into a cheetah,” says Katharina Samara-Wickrama, director of the IAWP.

The IAWP’s new strategy will put movement building at the heart of our work in Switzerland. As one of the few foundations focusing on movement building in the country, Oak Foundation can play a unique role in supporting grassroot organisations to connect, mobilise, create, and share knowledge.

The programme is planning to further support advocacy and lobbying efforts in order to disrupt the status quo, create systemic change, and improve the legal frameworks that protect and advance women’s rights. The IAWP is also planning to expand its support to organisations working to end domestic violence in Switzerland, with a specific focus on migrant women. This will build on the existing portfolio on domestic violence and expand our support to other French-speaking cantons where services are not available.

References: Please see page 62 of this report.

Captions:
P29: Participants in alliance F’s 2019 campaign, “Helvetia is calling”, which focused on coaching women politicians and encouraging political parties to include more women candidates on their electoral lists.

Above: 2019 Swiss Women’s March in Geneva, Switzerland.

P32: Photo is from a 1929 women’s protest march in Switzerland. It features a snail to illustrate the slow pace of progress.

Video alert! Check out the online version of this report to watch two videos made of or by our partners, describing the efforts of the women’s movement in Switzerland.
Grants

Aide aux Victimes de Violence en Couple
USD 460,000 (3 years)
To provide core support to AVVEC in its work to offer help, advice and support to victims of domestic violence in Geneva, Switzerland.

alliance F
USD 300,000 (3 years)
To provide core support to alliance F to achieve gender equality in society, the economy, and politics in Switzerland.

Association des Mediatrices Interculturelles (AMIC)
USD 300,000 (3 years)
To provide core support to AMIC, a Swiss organisation that supports migrant and refugee families in their social and economic integration in Geneva, Switzerland.

Association Découvrir
USD 575,850 (3 years)
To provide core support to Association Découvrir to continue supporting the professional integration of qualified migrant women in French-speaking Switzerland.

Association Violence Que Faire
USD 322,772 (3 years)
To provide core support to Association Violence Que Faire to continue to offer its services throughout the French-speaking part of Switzerland and run a psychological violence prevention campaign.

Centre for Gender and Violence Research, University of Bristol
USD 224,991 (2 years)
To provide unrestricted programme support to the Centre for Gender and Violence Research to add to knowledge on several under-researched areas of psychological violence.

Centre for Women's Justice
USD 100,000 (1 year)
To support the Centre for Women's Justice to challenge discrimination in the justice system in the UK regarding violence against women and girls, with a focus on psychological violence and coercive control.

Centre Social Protestant (CSP)
USD 401,679 (3 years)
To support the CSP's continued operation of its helpline for victims of human trafficking in the canton of Geneva, Switzerland.

ELAS Social Investment Fund
USD 1,076,000 (2 years)
To provide core funding to strengthen ELAS Fund's general grant-making capacity across Brazil.

End Violence Against Women Coalition (EVAW)
USD 100,000 (1 year)
To provide core funding to the UK-based organisation EVAW.

Equality Fund
USD 2,000,000 (3 years)
To provide core support to Equality Fund which works to strengthen women's organisations and movements that advance women's rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women, girls and trans people.

European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence
USD 310,000 (3 years)
To provide core support to the European Network for Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence, a European membership organisation.

Focus on Labour Exploitation (FLEX)
USD 259,740 (3 years)
To provide core support to FLEX, based in the UK, to enable it to continue its work of ending human trafficking for labour exploitation.

Frauenumformationszentrum
USD 150,000 (2 years)
To support the Swiss Platform against Human Trafficking to advocate for survivors of human trafficking to access their rights, specialised assistance and protection.

FreeFrom
USD 558,325 (2 years)
To provide core support to FreeFrom to create pathways to financial security and long-term safety for survivors of economic abuse in the US.

FRIDA – The Young Feminist Fund
USD 75,000 (1 year)
To help FRIDA support the meaningful participation of young feminist organisers in the Beijing+25 processes, leveraging its role of bringing young feminist perspectives to international, multi-stakeholder meetings.

Gender Alternatives Foundation
USD 250,000 (5 years)
To protect and promote women's rights and gender equality in Plovdiv and more widely across Bulgaria, by providing rights-based services to women victims of violence.

Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women
USD 757,706 (5 years)
To contribute to an improved understanding of, and response to, human trafficking and women's labour migration from a rights-based perspective.

Global Alliance Against Human Trafficking
USD 250,000 (5 years)
To provide core support to GAAHT to increase understanding of, and response to, human trafficking and exploitation in all parts of the world.

Global Justice Centre (GJC)
USD 800,000 (5 years)
To provide core support to GJC to use legal arguments and advocacy strategies to dismantle discriminatory legal and political structures that prevent equality and human rights for all.

Imkaan
USD 1,260,000 (5 years)
To support the work of Imkaan, a membership organisation of Black and minoritised women's services addressing violence against women and girls in the UK.

International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe
USD 300,000 (3 years)
To build sex workers' capacities to advocate for their inclusion in policy debates and to become an active part of the response to trafficking and exploitation in the sex industry in Europe.

Kalayaan
USD 422,078 (5 years)
To provide core support to Kalayaan to work with migrant domestic workers in the UK, especially victims of labour exploitation or trafficking.

Latin American Women’s Rights Service (LAWRS)
USD 311,688 (3 years)
To provide core support to LAWRS so that it can provide women-centred, rights based, holistic services to Latin American migrant women experiencing abuse and exploitation.

Level Up Action
USD 100,000 (1 year)
To support Level Up Action to build a community of feminists who will campaign to end sexism in the UK, so that women and nonbinary people can live safely and achieve their full potential.

National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA)
USD 1,000,000 (2 years)
To support the NDWA’s civic engagement project in the US to strengthen the activism of everyday people, particularly women, and expand the electorate to reflect a multiracial democracy.

Nobel Women’s Initiative (NWI)
USD 500,000 (5 years)
To provide core support to the NWI to enable it to strengthen and support women’s rights organisations around the world.

openDemocracy
USD 303,896 (1 year)
To administer and support the Issues Affecting Women Programme’s US-based portfolio of grants, which aims to end trafficking and exploitation.

Panorama Global
USD 600,000 (3 years)
To provide core funding and project funding to Philanthropy Advancing Women’s Human Rights (PAWHR).
Queen Mary, University of London
USD 364,000 (2 years)
To carry out a research study in several European countries on the experiences of domestic abuse survivors in the family courts on decisions around contact with children.

Safer Families Centre of Research Excellence – University of Melbourne
USD 600,000 (2 years)
To provide core support to Safer Families Centre, based at the University of Melbourne, Australia, for its research on psychological violence and the effects of domestic abuse on health.

Semillas
USD 50,000 (10 months)
To support Semillas in providing critical travel and translation grants to under-represented women activists from the global south, enabling them to attend the Gender Equality Forum in Mexico in May 2020.

Standing Together
USD 400,000 (3 years)
To provide core support to Standing Together in its work to support the Safety Across Faith and Ethnic Communities project to run the Faith and Violence against Women and Girls Coalition.

Surviving Economic Abuse (SEA)
USD 371,990 (2 years)
To enable SEA, in partnership with FreeFrom, to conduct a global review on the picture of economic abuse worldwide, including best practice and strategy for movement leaders and funders.

Swiss Philanthropy Foundation
USD 2,811,875 (3 years)
To support Swiss Philanthropy Foundation to manage five grants to national, regional, and international women’s funds based in the Netherlands, France, the United States, Peru, and Georgia.

Tides Foundation
USD 1,020,000 (18 months)
To support the Movement Support Fund to provide funding that can be mobilised quickly and be responsive to time-bound, unanticipated, or non-traditional opportunities.

Women at the Table
USD 200,000 (3 years)
To support women’s rights activists to gain influence in the application of artificial intelligence that touches every aspect of life – including governance, democracy, the economy, sustainability, and technology.

Women Fund Tanzania (WFT)
USD 300,000 (3 years)
To strengthen WFT’s organisational capacity, as the first and only women’s fund in Tanzania.

Women’s Fund for Scotland
USD 100,000 (1 year)
To support grant-making to women’s groups across Scotland in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)
USD 900,000 (3 years)
To provide core support to WILPF.

Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)
USD 1,500,000 (5 years)
To provide core support to WILPF to strengthen the capacity of frontline women’s organisations to mobilise for peace, equality, justice, and human security.
Unlocking the creativity and power of every young person

In the Learning Differences Programme (LDP), we believe that together we can build a world in which schools unlock the creativity and power of every young person, and equip them to shape more just and equitable communities. We partner with and invest in not-for-profit organisations that improve education for all students, particularly those with learning differences who experience further marginalisation due to racism and poverty.

2020 was a most unusual year that brought unprecedented challenges for students and families alike, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As schools were required to shift to distance learning nearly overnight, the LDP supported organisations that worked to: protect the rights of students who learn differently; support teachers and school leaders; offer guidance on how to meet students’ needs remotely; and offer guidance on how to re-open schools in trauma-sensitive ways.
When the risks of the Covid-19 virus started to become clear in early spring of 2020, many schools were forced to close, ultimately affecting at least 50.8 million public school students in the US alone. Around the world, 96 per cent of countries closed schools by the end of March, affecting approximately 711 million children.

Schools shifted to distance learning nearly overnight. By early May, 80 per cent of teachers in the US were interacting with the majority of their students remotely. This was still the case at the start of the 2020-21 school year. On top of this, families had to balance work responsibilities with new childcare roles and support for their children’s virtual learning. Unfortunately, many students whose parents were unable to support their online learning – particularly those from low-income families with poor internet connectivity – opted out of school altogether.

“In addition to creating lost learning time for students, the widespread school closures caused by the pandemic shone a new light on and widened the inequities for vulnerable learners, including those with learning differences, students of colour, students from low-income families and English language learners,” says Heather Graham, director of the Learning Differences Programme. Experts estimated that children in the US could lose as much as a full year’s worth of learning in reading and math during the pandemic, and even more for the most vulnerable students.

Schools’ remote learning plans attempted to fill these gaps, but this brought challenges for families and students with learning differences – from accessing instructional content and receiving proper services, to supporting social and emotional health during extraordinarily stressful times.

Our partners stepped up with solutions
Through their commitment to improving outcomes for all students, with a particular focus on students who learn differently, several of the LDP’s partners quickly worked to ensure that students received the best support possible. From protecting the legal rights of students with special needs, to supporting system leaders and educators to serve students directly, these not-for-profit organisations provided critical resources and support to address the unprecedented challenges posed by the pandemic.

Protecting the rights of students who learn differently
Students with learning and attention differences experienced these challenges especially acutely as they tried to receive specialised instruction and support at home. Schools in the US are required under federal law to provide special education services to students who need it. But early in the pandemic, many education systems advocated to waive these rights due to the additional challenges and costs of providing them remotely.

“The widespread school closures widened the inequities for vulnerable learners.”
Heather Graham

Caption: The photos throughout this section of the report illustrate our partners’ work to strengthen schools’ remote learning plans so that every child could continue to learn as best as possible during the 2020 Covid-19 crisis.

Video alert! Please check out the online version of this report to watch a video of our LDP partners, describing their efforts to support learners during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.
The National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD) quickly galvanised its advocacy network to protect the rights of students who learn differently. “Now is not the time for waivers. Most students with disabilities are already behind their peers on test scores, graduation rates, and more. They cannot afford to slip further behind during Covid-19,” said Lindsay Jones, NCLD’s president and CEO. A US-based not-for-profit organisation, NCLD and its extensive network of young adult and parent advocates work through research, policy, and advocacy, to improve the lives of the one in five students across the US with learning and attention issues.

NCLD’s advocacy efforts were ultimately successful. Over the summer, the US Congress reaffirmed school districts’ legal obligation to provide equal educational access to students with disabilities and allocated USD 30.75 billion to support public schools during the pandemic.

Even with this support, however, schools and educators struggled to meet students’ needs. By the middle of the school year, less than a third of states required special education services to be considered in pandemic distance learning plans, and 40 per cent of parents whose children are entitled to special education services reported that they were not receiving any support.

Supporting teachers and school leaders
Educators in the US are not typically trained on how to deliver high-quality instruction virtually, let alone provide the additional specialised supports for students with special needs remotely. The Special Education Leader Fellowship (SELF), an LDP partner that trains and develops special education teachers in New Orleans, quickly jumped in to provide practical resources to educators across the country. “Teachers and school leaders are working extraordinarily hard for their students, getting creative and putting in long hours,” said Aqua Stovall, executive director at SELF. “But most lessons are simply not designed to be delivered remotely, especially for students with disabilities. It takes extra effort to make sure they are accessible.”

SELF assembled a reopening toolkit that principals and teachers could use during the pandemic to ensure that remote learning was accessible to all. In addition, it hosted free webinars for educators on supporting students with learning disabilities, integrating Universal Design for Learning into their courses and on supporting students’ executive functioning. SELF also offered coaching, feedback, and development services to educators across the country, providing real-time assistance to school staff.

Addressing the educational impacts of trauma
Many LDP partners also recognised the additional mental and physical stress facing students and families, compounding the challenges of remote schooling with anxiety and isolation caused by community shutdowns, increased economic instability, and racial unrest throughout the US. Midway through the year, school social workers reported that a majority of their students needed serious mental health support in the wake of the pandemic and school closures. Among parents of students with special needs, nearly half had serious concerns about their children’s mental health.

The US-based Lesley Institute for Trauma Sensitivity (LIfTS) offered guidance to states and school districts on how to re-open schools in trauma-sensitive ways. Whether schools sought to support students remotely or resume in-person instruction during the pandemic, LIfTS advised that “nurturing a climate and culture of trust and caring will pay big dividends in students’ abilities to learn.” In response to needs of school leaders across the US, LIfTS shared guidance on how to build supportive environments for learning and student wellbeing. Its free webinars helped educators across the country understand the dynamics of trauma, its adverse effects on learning, and how trauma-sensitive schools can benefit all children, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Oak Foundation is proud to support NCLD, SELF, LIfTS and many other partners who quickly pivoted to respond to the new and urgent needs presented by the pandemic for students with learning differences, particularly those furthest from opportunity. As school systems in the US and around the globe continue to grapple with the impacts of this unprecedented disruption to traditional education, we hope that the work and commitments highlighted here can inspire greater equity and access to meaningful educational opportunities for all children.

References: Please see page 62 of this report.
Grants

CAST Inc.
USD 1,000,000 (3 years)
To transform education design and practice by advancing quality implementation of Universal Design for Learning in the US and worldwide.

Council of Chief State School Officers
USD 650,002 (30 months)
To support the Council of Chief State School Officers in convening education leaders in the US to increase principals’ knowledge and skills to lead schools that effectively serve students with disabilities.

DonorsChoose
USD 500,000 (2 years)
To support teachers by providing tools and resources related to differentiated instruction for students with learning differences.

East Carolina University
USD 598,407 (4 years)
To support students with learning disabilities to enrol in and graduate from East Carolina University (ECU).

East Carolina University
USD 498,945 (2 years)
To provide support to College STAR, an initiative that aims to make college campuses more welcoming to students with learning and attention differences.

Education Reimagined
USD 1,000,000 (3 years)
To support Education Reimagined, a US-based not-for-profit organisation dedicated to transforming the education system into one that adapts to the unique needs, strengths, and aspirations of each learner.

Freedom Bound Centre
DBA Sol Collective
USD 1,000,000 (3 years)
To support schools to close the gap between research and practice in the areas of cultural and community responsiveness.

FUNDE
USD 250,000 (2 years)
To support Big Bad Boo Productions in developing an animated television series called Judge Jodhi that features a dyslexic 12-year old girl that sets up a mock court in her backyard to resolve neighbourhood disputes.

James B. Hunt, Jr. Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy Foundation, Inc.
USD 25,000 (1 year)
To provide project support to The Hunt Institute, based in the United States, to accelerate the use of the science of reading in teachers’ initial preparation.

KnowledgeWorks
USD 250,000 (1 year)
To provide continuing support to three projects focused on advancing the student-centred learning movement in the US through the Student Centered Learning Research Collaborative at KnowledgeWorks.

Massachusetts Advocates for Children
USD 800,000 (5 years)
To ensure that that all students, including those who have faced adversity from traumatic events, including racism and marginalisation due to disabilities, succeed at their highest levels in school and in life.

MDC Inc.
USD 200,000 (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.

National Center for Learning Disabilities
USD 2,750,000 (4 years)
To support the National Center for Learning Disabilities in achieving its mission of improving the lives of the one in five children and adults across the US with learning and attention issues.

National Center for Special Education in Charter Schools (NCSECS)
USD 875,667 (3 years)
To provide core support to NCSECS for its research, advocacy, technical support and communications work to improve access and educational quality for students with disabilities.

New Venture Fund
USD 750,000 (2 years)
To support the Communities for Just Schools Fund, a project of New Venture Fund, that provides resources to community-led organisations working to transform schools.

NewSchools Fund
USD 3,000,000 (3 years)
To provide core support to catalyse greater equity and innovation in school design to expand pathways to success for all students.

Relay Graduate School of Education
USD 500,000 (2 years)
To support Relay Graduate School of Education to operate the Inclusive Schools Leadership Institute.

Teach for America
USD 1,500,000 (3 years)
To support Teach for America’s efforts to improve educators’ ability to meet the needs of all students, including students with learning differences.

The Asia Society
USD 350,000 (2 years)
To support the Asia Society to develop a series of learning opportunities to share effective global practices in learning differences.

YouthBuild USA
USD 901,979 (2 years)
To support Youth Build International in building a network of diploma-granting secondary schools in the global south and the US, called the YouthBuild Global Schools Network.
Building a world together where children can thrive

Millions of children around the world are sexually abused, the effects of which can be long-lasting and devastating. Abuse can affect health, wellbeing, and relationships. Thankfully, we are seeing new openings for change. Survivors and advocates are breaking through the culture of silence to obtain support and 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.

The Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Programme aims to make the case for broad action by building evidence of what works and by supporting scalable solutions to end abuse. This is the focus of this year’s article.
Dr Elizabeth Letourneau is known for her pioneering research on people who have sexually abused children, work that spans three decades. Eight years ago, a question from a journalist nearly stopped her in her tracks: Would she like to meet some teenagers who self-identified as attracted to children – and who had made the commitment not to offend?

“It did not occur to me that there were kids out there who were already making the decision to refrain from acting on their attractions,” says Elizabeth. Like many, she had assumed that anyone with such urges would act on them in the absence of professional help. Instead, these young people had formed a private support group to help each other keep their promises not to harm young children. She was indeed keen to meet them.

Elizabeth develops and evaluates perpetration prevention programmes at the Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse at Johns Hopkins University, which she founded and directs. She points out that those with a sexual interest in young children make up a small percentage of those who abuse children. A majority are family members, trusted adults, and older children or peers who do not have a preferential interest in children. In the US, teens account for half or more of all sexual offenses against children.¹ Elizabeth’s work demonstrates that teens may engage in harmful sexual behaviour with younger children or peers out of ignorance, impulsivity, or inadequate adult supervision, and many other factors, including, for some, sexual interest in young children.

Teens who have caused harm once are very unlikely to abuse children again, if they receive the right support.

But here was a group of young people aware of their interest in young children who had not offended. What would help them continue to do the right thing and achieve their own health and happiness? Sexual interest in children is one of the most stigmatised characteristics a teen might possess. In interviews with Elizabeth’s research team, teens and young adults with sexual interest in children described lives of self-imposed isolation, depression, shame and self-loathing, and thoughts of suicide. Reaching out for professional help was risky: the fear of criminal consequences was too great, even though they were not yet adults and had never offended.

These interviews, along with others, have informed the Moore Center’s research and prevention interventions. Last year, as Covid-19 restrictions kept many children at home, Elizabeth was concerned about the increased risk of child sexual abuse, particularly within families and online. “Stress, social isolation and opportunity are related to risk,” she says. She and her team were in the final stages of creating an online intervention for teens and young adults with a sexual interest in children. They put it on the fast track, and launched the free, self-paced course, called Help Wanted, in the late spring.

Prevention efforts like these offer hope of moving beyond approaches focused on acting after the crime has been committed, with major

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investments in apprehending, prosecuting, incarcerating, and monitoring perpetrators. Indeed, this after-the-act approach has addressed a mere fraction of the problem: only one in five incidents of child sexual abuse are reported to the authorities. In a world where one in three children tell a parent or other trusted adult about their abuse, millions of children are not getting the help they need, including children who experience and who cause sexual harm. “What we’ve been doing for the past 30 years – teaching our children how to protect themselves, mandating teachers and others to report abuse, and relying on law enforcement strategies – just isn’t enough,” says Elizabeth.

Dr Michael Seto, a professor of psychiatry at the University of Ottawa, agrees. Renowned for his ground-breaking work in treating paedophilic and non-paedophilic offenders, he came to embrace prevention in his work and believes the larger field is also shifting. “I have seen movement from a reactive approach emphasising punishment, legal restrictions, and offender treatment to a greater consideration of how we can be proactive and prevent child sexual abuse perpetration from ever happening,” he says.

This is good news. Still, experts point to a pressing need for more scientific evidence on what works. To this end, the Moore Center, with support from Oak Foundation, launched a five-year research effort to rigorously evaluate programmes that are most effective at preventing the perpetration of child sexual abuse. Michael Seto, in his capacity with the Royal Ottawa Health Care Group, joined Elizabeth in conducting this work, which began in early 2021. They aim to find, test, and disseminate effective solutions that work with different groups of people, including young adolescents in general, and teens and adults with a sexual interest in children. It also includes other adults who may be at risk of offending, even if they don’t have a strong interest in children, perhaps because of their work in child-focused settings or due to inadequate control over sexual impulses. Ultimately, this work is intended to identify effective solutions that can be implemented by governments at scale, and replicated in regions and countries with low resources. As the empirical evidence mounts that they and others generate, they will place summaries of it – and resources needed to implement these programmes – on an online capacity-building hub for policy makers and practitioners.

“One programme they will likely evaluate is the Moore Center’s Responsible Behavior with Younger Children, a course originally designed in the US to help 6th and 7th grade students avoid inappropriate sexual behaviours with peers and younger children. An initial study found that children who took the course reported a lower likelihood to commit sexual harm and had more accurate knowledge about developmental differences between teens and young children, what child sexual abuse is, and consent.

This next evaluation will look at the programme’s actual impact on preventing child sexual abuse behaviours.

Another promising programme is Prevent It, an intervention that combines self-help and professional support in an online delivery platform. Prevent It was developed in Sweden for adults who are concerned about their sexual interest in children and use of child sexual exploitation material. Led by Dr Christoffer Rahm, a psychiatrist and researcher at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Prevent It is now in the pilot-testing stage. Its secure online chat system has the potential to offer clinician-facilitated treatment to patients who live anywhere.

Christoffer is a leading voice on the value of treating people who have already offended as well as those at risk of offending, in order to prevent further harm from happening to children. To those who are just learning about this work, he suggests being open to the facts and willing to challenge prejudices. “Be optimistic,” he says. “There are new academic developments and there is hope.”

Momentum is building in support of this work. Recently the US Centers for Disease Control awarded the Moore Center with a USD 1.6 million grant to evaluate its Help Wanted course, the largest study on perpetrator prevention that the US Government has funded. The European Commission has recently announced a far-reaching effort to invest in prevention across the region, and Human Dignity Foundation is actively exploring a multi-million-dollar investment in prevalence data, including perpetration. The End Violence Investors Forum is also regularly convening donors to discuss how to best align and leverage these new investments.

“One Oak’s USD 10.3 million investment in the Moore Center and its partners signals our confidence in this approach to perpetration prevention,” says Brigette De Lay, who directs the foundation’s Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Programme. “We hope others will join us and invest more in this critical work, which has enormous potential to make a sizeable difference in ending child sexual abuse.”

References: Please see page 62 of this report.
Grants

Accountability and ending impunity

5 Rights Foundation
USD 1,948,052 (3 years)
To strengthen the protection of the online data and privacy of children by creating long-lasting, systemic change.

Army of Survivors
USD 496,350 (2 years)
To provide core support for survivors of sexual violence in sports who formed the Army of Survivors in 2018 to raise awareness of the systemic problems of sexual violence in sport.

Canadian Centre for Child Protection
USD 4,152,568 (3 years)
To reduce the availability of online child sexual abuse material and improve response by the tech industry and governments.

Center for Digital Democracy
USD 600,000 (3 years)
To support the Center for Digital Democracy’s efforts to strengthen US Government’s and the technology industry’s policies and systems for protecting children from online sexual exploitation.

ECPAT International
USD 100,000 (1 year)
To support the efforts of ECPAT International in ending the online child sexual abuse and exploitation of children in the digital space.

ECPAT International
USD 250,000 (1 year)
To work with policy makers to include children’s interests in revisions to the Digital Services Act and on the impact of end-to-end encryption.

International Justice Mission
USD 749,870 (3 years)
To increase children’s safety from sexual violence in Uganda and Guatemala, and to end impunity against child sexual abuse.

Oficina de Defensoría de los Derechos de la Infancia a.c.
USD 250,000 (18 months)
To make the schools in Mexico safer for young children and to prompt institutional reform that prevents and protects children from sexual abuse.

ParentsTogether
USD 100,000 (6 months)
To unleash the power of parents as a force for policy change.

Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)
USD 100,000 (1 year)
To strengthen RAINN’s efforts to protect children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

UNI Global Union, The World Players Association
USD 224,500 (18 months)
To support the coordination of the Sports and Rights Alliance, a coalition of watchdog civil society organisations focused on sport and human rights.

ECPAT International
USD 100,000 (1 year)
To work with policy makers to include children’s interests in revisions to the Digital Services Act and on the impact of end-to-end encryption.

Empowering Children Foundation (ECF)
USD 1,505,557 (5 years)
To support ECF to continue its mission of protecting children from abuse and helping those who have experienced all forms of violence, including sexual abuse.

Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media at Mount St. Mary’s College
USD 240,000 (18 months)
To investigate portrayals of masculinity in video games and gaming culture.

Innovation Edge
USD 249,806 (2 years)
To support innovative solutions that improve the wellbeing of young children through the positive engagement of male caregivers in South Africa.

Solutions and advancing action

Boston College, Trustees of
USD 1,183,305 (3 years)
To support Boston College to scale out the father-engagement component of a home-visiting violence prevention intervention in three districts in Rwanda, and to build local research capacity to support this work in that country.
International Step by Step Association
USD 371,044 (15 months)
To support the preparatory phase of a project to promote positive gender norms in early childhood in Portugal and beyond.

Johns Hopkins University
USD 228,632 (14 months)
To help the Johns Hopkins Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual abuse to strengthen several components of its work for an upcoming proposal on perpetration prevention.

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
USD 94,469 (11 months)
To draw lessons on the impact of the LINEA radio drama in reducing adolescent sexual exploitation in Tanzania.

Pathfinder International
USD 162,403 (1 year)
To identify proven interventions that prevent sexual violence against children and to help develop a set of interventions to be implemented over the coming three years in Northern Unguja, Zanzibar.

RADIX Fondation Suisse pour la promotion de la santé
USD 622,470 (3 years)
To enable young people in Switzerland to acquire positive life skills, attitudes, and behaviours to prevent them from entering into abusive relationships.

Santé Sexuelle Suisse
USD 666,464 (3 years)
To advocate for the implementation of comprehensive sexuality education in schools in Switzerland.

Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI)
USD 376,523 (20 months)
To provide core support to the SVRI to strengthen its organisational and governance systems.

UNICEF, the United Nations Children’s Fund
USD 704,701 (30 months)
To develop a module to collect data on sexual violence in childhood for use in surveys.

University of Cape Town – Center for Social Science Research
USD 1,692,228 (4 years)
To improve life outcomes for African children and adolescents.

UNICEF, the United Nations Children’s Fund
USD 376,523 (20 months)
To support the preparatory phase of a project to promote positive gender norms in early childhood in Portugal and beyond.

Johns Hopkins University
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To improve life outcomes for African children and adolescents.

Strategic opportunities

Bank Information Center
USD 1,901,272 (3 years)
To encourage the World Bank to put in place the systems needed to prevent and respond to the sexual exploitation and abuse of children arising from the large-scale infrastructure projects it funds.

Child Rights Connect
USD 200,000 (15 months)
To ensure the promotion, protection and fulfilment of children’s rights throughout the UN system, including through increased child participation.

Columbia University
USD 2,783,359 (3 years)
To support the World Bank to put in place the systems needed to prevent and respond to the sexual exploitation and abuse of children arising from the large-scale infrastructure projects it funds.

Eurochild
USD 989,011 (3 years)
To provide core support to Eurochild, a network of 185 organisations and individuals across 35 European countries working with and for children throughout Europe.

Hope and Homes for Children
USD 100,000 (1 year)
To support vulnerable families in Moldova and prevent the separation of children from their parents in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Hope for Justice
USD 500,000 (3 years)
To provide core support to Hope for Justice to prevent unsafe migration of children in the Hadiya zone of Ethiopia.

National Network for Children Association (NNC)
USD 249,999 (2 years)
To provide core support to the NNC in Bulgaria.

New Venture Fund
USD 1,400,000 (2 years)
To support the next level of development of the Out of the Shadows Index and accompanying advocacy efforts that together drive positive change towards ending sexual violence against children.

New Venture Fund
USD 2,682,346 (3 years)
To support Ignite Philanthropy to regrant and provide capacity building support to networks that aim to end child sexual abuse.

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc.
USD 1,000,000 (3 years)
To provide core support for Just Beginnings Collaborative, which works to prevent child sexual abuse.

Tides Foundation
USD 4,500,000 (3 years)
To provide rapid emergency support to Child First Fund to prevent or mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on children in situations of increased risk of sexual abuse.

Together for Girls
USD 249,000 (7 months)
To begin the planning phase for a future proposal on a global campaign to end child sexual abuse by 2030.

Together for Girls *
USD 200,000 (7 months)
To build civil society coalitions and implement advocacy campaigns to keep children safe during the Covid-19 pandemic in the US, Colombia and Kenya.

University of Bedfordshire
USD 499,942 (3 years)
To support the next level of development of the Out of the Shadows Index and accompanying advocacy efforts that together drive positive change towards ending sexual violence against children.

University of Bedfordshire
USD 499,942 (3 years)
To support the next level of development of the Out of the Shadows Index and accompanying advocacy efforts that together drive positive change towards ending sexual violence against children.

Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation
USD 249,999 (1 year)
To strengthen national-level not-for-profit organisations in Bulgaria to implement effective communication strategies that support rights-based narratives.

* The Together for Girls grant is also featured in the Covid-19 grant section of this report, on page 12.
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.

We have listed the Special Initiative grants that are specifically related to Covid-19 in the Covid-19 section of this report, on pages 11 and 12.
Supporting children in Kenya to be agents of change

The Orongo school lies in Kisumu province, a rural area not far from the shores of Lake Victoria in Kenya. In the local school, there are 631 students, but only 10 teachers. More than a third of students in the school come from families that live on less than a dollar a day. Many of the children have been orphaned due to HIV/AIDS or left behind by parents who have travelled for work. Conscious of the challenges his community faces, the local community chief wanted to do something to improve the wellbeing of his students.

He contacted Ace Africa about the possibility of establishing a Child-to-Child club in the school. Ace Child-to-Child (CtC) clubs help children achieve better health, wellbeing, and development – for themselves, their families, and their communities. CtC clubs support children to become influential agents for change in making health choices in schools and the community.

They do this through activities like singing, playing games, performing plays, engaging in debates, art, and writing. The subjects they cover include the following: water, sanitation and hygiene, where children learn hand-washing measures and how to prevent common water-borne diseases; school kitchen gardens, where children learn about nutrition and gardening; and discussion around sensitive but important topics such as HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, reproductive health, and child rights. Children then share their learning with parents and the community through outreach activities, such as advocacy campaigns, fun days, parents’ meetings, education days, and festivals, where music and drama are used to disseminate key messages.

Ace Africa provided the staff at Orongo school with training and support to establish a successful CtC club in the school for more than 145 members.

The club facilitated trainings for students on child protection, handwashing, life skills, menstrual hygiene management, kitchen gardening, environmental conservation, reproductive health, and health promotion. “The children are always excited when it’s Wednesday, because they know it is CtC meeting day, they learn a lot,” said Mr Kuria, the CtC teacher.

Encouraged and inspired by what they have learnt through the CtC club, students are now bringing their learning home, creating kitchen gardens with their families, and making taps from used water bottles. Since establishing the CtC club, the school has seen significant improvement in school attendance and a drop in teenage pregnancy.

The CtC club at Orongo school is just one example of Ace Africa’s child development work. Ace Africa works with marginalised people in low-resource settings in Kenya and Tanzania. Employing local people, Ace Africa works with communities to support them in identifying their needs and developing appropriate, bespoke solutions.

More than 100,000 children in 500 schools have benefitted from Ace Africa’s collaborative projects to improve the health, nutritional welfare, and wellbeing of children and young people across Western Kenya.

Asking fundamental questions about Covid-19

Oxford University is one of the top-ranked institutions in the world because of the high quality of its facilities, research, and teaching. In April 2020, the University set up the Covid-19 Research Response Fund to support research by the university’s investigators.

Oxford University has attracted much media attention for its collaboration on the development of the Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine, which has been approved for use in several European countries and Australia. The development of this vaccine was made possible thanks to Oxford University’s world-class expertise in vaccinology, and the global development, manufacturing and distribution capabilities of AstraZeneca, a multinational biopharmaceutical company.

While Oxford University is perhaps most famous for its Covid-19 vaccine, it is also contributing to other important research areas to help fight the current pandemic. This includes: the development of treatments for Covid-19; mental health interventions to reduce traumatic memories of frontline health workers; and an effective and rapid diagnostic tool to prevent future outbreaks.

Recently, the institution has also been investigating the new variants of the Covid-19 virus (in particular, the South African and Brazilian variants) and the potential implications of their emergence on, for example, vaccination. These research efforts were made possible thanks to the financial flexibility brought by the Covid-19 Research Response Fund, which is mainly supported through philanthropic donations.
Sharing is caring

Images of thousands of Geneva’s residents queuing for food during the Covid-19 crisis in spring 2020 received international attention as the lines stretched for more than a kilometre. Known as one of the world’s most expensive cities, the economic vulnerability of thousands of its residents was suddenly revealed.

The economic shock caused by the pandemic mostly affected people experiencing homelessness, those struggling with addiction, and women and children in situations of domestic violence. The high cost of living in Geneva meant that for some families, changes to their income meant that they could no longer make ends meet. And, in particular, it shed light on the invisible fragility of Geneva’s undocumented residents, most of whom are domestic and hospitality workers who lost their jobs from one day to the next.

Geneva’s sole foodbank, Partage, immediately stepped up to help. Its name could not be better suited as “partage” translates to “share” in English, and the organisation accomplishes just that.

Since the Covid-19 crisis began, Partage has been organising volunteers to come together three times a week to pack 5,000 bags of food and hygiene products. It has distributed these supplies at sites across the city, reaching 16,000 people in need each week. Gary Vannatter, one of the regular volunteers from Serve the City Geneva, expressed his desire to contribute to the community. “When you help others, it always comes back to you,” he says, “It’s great to know that you are supporting thousands of people.”

Typically, Partage partners with supermarkets to collect unsold food and goods close to the sell-by date that would otherwise be discarded. Everyday its team is out on e-bikes equipped with refrigerated trailers, collecting from dozens of supermarkets across the city. In 2020, it collected 320 tonnes of food from 91 partners in Geneva. Catherine Christ Revaz, Partage’s communications and fundraising officer said, “We help associations who have beneficiaries in precarious situations. These associations depend on Partage for providing food aid.”

By collecting unsold goods, Partage is fulfilling another part of its mission, which is to fight against food waste. It regularly comes up with new ways of using food that would otherwise be wasted, including making 10,000 litres of vegetable soup every winter to accompany the weekly distributions to more than 50 partner associations. Oak is excited to be supporting Partage in its core mission to collect and sort unsold food stock in the city of Geneva, especially during the last year which was difficult for everyone.

Reference: Please see page 62 of this report.

Caption page 44: In 2020, healthcare workers around the world were on the frontlines in the fight against Covid-19. Oak’s partner the Oxford University worked hard to develop of the Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine.

Caption above: In 2020, bags of food and hygiene products were distributed among residents of Geneva, Switzerland, some of whom had abruptly lost their jobs due to the Covid-19 lockdown measures. Oak’s partner Partage helped distribute these bags of supplies across the city, reaching 16,000 people in need each week.
The Conservation Fund’s Resourceful Communities Program (RCP) believes conservation goes beyond environmental concerns, and to this end it also works to also achieve economic outcomes that benefit people. RCP creates opportunities that preserve the rural landscape, lift people out of poverty, and celebrate communities’ unique cultures.

While RCP has focused on supporting communities of colour for more than 20 years, including Native American and Latinx communities, its work seems more important than ever, given the current fight for racial justice in the US. RCP works towards economic, social, and environmental justice, helping communities to earn money while also protecting their land. For example, the Coharie Tribe is cleaning up their river and aims to conduct eco-tourism kayaking tours; a group of young people grow and sell produce to local restaurants; and individual landowners are generating revenue from recreational uses and sustainable timber management.

RCP supports a grassroots network of organisations that provide environmental and economic benefits to communities across North Carolina, including more than 100 organisations working on innovative food programming. Many are being called upon to grow, secure, coordinate, and/or distribute much needed fresh produce to meet increasing hunger and food insecurity, while also supporting small-scale farmers, whose markets and contracts are being cancelled or reduced. Some of RCP’s partners that work to respond to the needs in their communities include: Episcopal Farmworker Ministry, which works to meet emergency needs of farmers; Green Rural Redevelopment Organisation, which delivers meals to seniors; Tarboro Community Outreach, which provides daily meals to people through its homeless shelter; Brunswick Housing Opportunities, which works with Black community churches to deliver food to seniors; Migrant Education of Robeson County, which delivers food to migrant families, especially those without a car; and Wash Away Unemployment, which helps those recently released from prison (due to Covid-19) to find housing.

“We are buying tools and vegetables and using them in any way that we can to enhance the development of farms and the availability of the food,” says Ardis Crews, vice president of the Southern Organic Female Farmers Association.

Since the pandemic reached North Carolina in March 2020, RCP has been in regular contact with its community partners. Organisations that regularly meet the immediate needs of the most vulnerable members of their communities – food pantries, re-entry programmes, and immigrant services – have seen demand for their services increase dramatically. Many of these organisations have developed new methods of service delivery to serve people who are homebound due to age (elders being the most vulnerable), or youth who are now home-schooled.

Overall, RCP has stepped up to support local organisations that help with food assistance, childcare, elder care, patient care, and more. Its goal has been to provide funding that is easily accessible and rapidly deployed. “RCP has been working in rural communities for over 20 years, so when the multiple crises hit in 2020, it was prepared to respond,” says Millie Brobston, programme officer for Oak’s Special Interest Programme. “RCP works with community leaders to strengthen their work through capacity-building support, networking and the sharing of resources.”

Caption above: The Conservation Fund’s Resourceful Communities Program supports a grassroots network of organisations that provide environmental and economic benefits to communities across North Carolina.
Grants

Ace Africa UK
USD 399,753 (3 years)
To improve child protection, access to education and essential health services for vulnerable groups in western Kenya and northern Tanzania.

Blueprint NC
USD 350,000 (1 year)
To create a more equitable, safer, healthier North Carolina by building capacity for and supporting strategic, collaborative work among socially responsible not-for-profit organisations doing civic engagement and issue/policy advocacy.

Book Harvest
USD 700,000 (3 years)
To provide an abundance of books and ongoing literacy support to families and their children in Durham, North Carolina.

Borealis Philanthropy
USD 400,000 (1 year)
To support two donor collaboratives: the Communities Transforming Policing Fund; and the Black-Led Movement Fund.

Build It International
USD 779,221 (3 years)
To support Build It International’s Training into Work programme in Zambia.

Campaign for Southern Equality
USD 350,000 (4 years)
To promote full LGBTQI equality – both legal and lived – across the US South.

Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro
USD 350,000 (3 years)
To provide funding and capacity building support to Latino organisations working in communities of North Carolina.

Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Western NC, Inc. DBA OnTrack Financial Education & Counseling
USD 250,000 (4 years)
To strengthen people in Western North Carolina economically, so that they can overcome crises, afford basic needs, improve money management skills, and make sound financial choices rooted in their values.

Coram’s Field
USD 83,622 (3 years)
To support Coram’s Fields’ sports programme and contribute to its recovery post-Covid-19 lockdown.

Diocesan Caritas of the Canary Islands *
USD 1,000,000 (2 years)
To support Diocesan Caritas of the Canary Islands to assist the increased number of people experiencing poverty and destitution as a result of Covid-19 on the Canary Islands.

EPER - Entraide Protestante Suisse
USD 700,000 (4 years)
To contribute to improving the quality of life of migrants in Geneva, Switzerland by providing information about the health and social services that are entitled to access.

Exchange Clubs Child Abuse Prevention Center in Durham, Inc. DBA Exchange Family Center
USD 250,000 (3 years)
To strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect in Durham, North Carolina, through family support, counselling, and education.

Fondation des Fondateurs
USD 1,000,000 (2 years)
To support European civil society organisations with trade and investment expertise and campaigning capacity.

Fondation Foyer-Handicap
USD 1,000,000 (3 years)
To provide core support to Fondation Foyer-Handicap, in Geneva, Switzerland, to promote the full integration of people with physical disabilities into society.

Fondation MalleyPrairie
USD 403,928 (2 years)
To support women victims of domestic violence in the canton of Vaud, Switzerland.

Fondation Partage
USD 300,000 (3 years)
To collect and sort unsold food stock from Geneva, Switzerland’s retailers and distribute it free of charge to associations and social services which assist and provide for those in need.

Global Dialogue
USD 129,870 (1 year)
To support The Five Foundation to strengthen its organisational capacity and financial sustainability, enabling it to achieve longer term strategic objectives.

Global Investigative Journalism Network
USD 600,000 (3 years)
To provide core support to the Global Investigative Journalism Network.

Goals for Girls
USD 1,000,000 (5 years)
To address social and health challenges facing young women through education and service-based learning by connecting girls from different countries and backgrounds through international exchanges, soccer leagues, and events.

Good Shepherd Services (GSS)
USD 5,000,000 (5 years)
To provide core support to GSS, a youth and family development agency that operates over 90 programmes serving 30,500 children, youth, and family members in New York City.

Guardian.org Foundation DBA theguardian.org
USD 600,000 (2 years)
To provide core support to theguardian.org to fund the Age of Extinction reporting project by The Guardian.

Harlem Children’s Zone
USD 500,000 (1 year)
To provide core support to Harlem Children’s Zone and its pipeline of programmes that offer education, social and wellness services to more than 12,000 children and their families in Central Harlem, New York, each year.

High Point University
USD 100,000 (1 year)
To plan and prepare for initiatives that prepare students to: be engaged; understand complex social challenges; and make change happen.

Housing for New Hope Inc.
USD 600,000 (5 years)
To end family homelessness in Durham County by helping families

Immigrant Justice Corps (IJC)
USD 600,000 (3 years)
To provide core support to IJC, a fellowship programme dedicated to increasing access to justice for low-income immigrants fighting deportation and/or seeking lawful status, benefits, or citizenship in the US.

Imperial College London
USD 895,656 (3 years)
To improve end-of-life care in the UK by supporting the Institute of Global Health Innovation at Imperial College London.

Josh’s Hope Foundation
USD 350,000 (4 years)
To support young adults in North Carolina with mental health and/or substance abuse issues, and their caregivers.

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)
USD 1,500,000 (4 years)
To support KIND’s work to protect the rights and wellbeing of unaccompanied and separated migrant children from Central America and Mexico.

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
USD 259,742 (2 years)
To support the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in the UK to identify how to preserve human health and the environment, while promoting a post-carbon world economy.

Made in Durham
USD 500,000 (3 years)
To scale Durham’s efforts to open up opportunities for youth and to create successful pathways for their education and career.

Maendenes Hjem
USD 2,617,179 (2 years)
To renovate and expand an existing shelter in Copenhagen, Denmark, for men and women currently experiencing homelessness.

Maggie Keswick Jencks Cancer Caring Centres Trust
USD 1,298,701 (4 years)
To provide core support to Maggie Keswick Jencks Cancer Caring Centres Trust (Maggie’s) to offer people with cancer and their families practical, emotional, and social support in Maggie’s Centres.

Migration Museum Project
USD 259,740 (3 years)
To provide core support to the Migration Museum, which explores the rich story of migration in the UK.

* The Diocesan Caritas of the Canary Islands grant is also featured in the Covid grant section of this report, on page 11.
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<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Philanthropy Capital</td>
<td>USD 779,221</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>To support New Philanthropy Capital to maximise the impact of the not-for-profit sector in the UK.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford University</td>
<td>USD 649,351</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>To support the University of Oxford in the UK to conduct research on a new HIV-1 vaccine strategy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford University *</td>
<td>USD 1,298,701</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>To support the University of Oxford in the UK to fund high quality research on Covid-19 through its Covid-19 Research Response Fund.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainbow Trust Children’s Charity</td>
<td>USD 779,221</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>To provide core support to Rainbow Trust Children’s Charity enabling it to provide social palliative care for families in the UK.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Foundation of the City University of New York</td>
<td>USD 250,000</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>To help consolidate the presence and outreach of the Center for Immigrant, Refugee and Global Health at City University of New York’s School of Public Health.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robin Hood Foundation</td>
<td>USD 3,000,000</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>To provide core support to Robin Hood, a poverty-fighting organisation based in the US.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc.</td>
<td>USD 4,000,000</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>To support the Global Commons Alliance to empower citizens, cities, companies, and countries to become stewards of our global commons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SECU Family House at UNC Hospitals</td>
<td>USD 350,000</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>To provide a safe, nurturing, affordable home for patients and their loved ones who travel long distances to UNC Health for lifesaving procedures and healthcare.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-Help (Center for Community Self-Help)</td>
<td>USD 1,315,000</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>To create and protect ownership and economic opportunity as illustrated by the Women’s Homebuyer Initiative, which makes home ownership more affordable for single-headed households across North Carolina.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sidney De Haan Research Centre for Arts and Health</td>
<td>USD 1,099,684</td>
<td>6 years</td>
<td>To provide core support to undertake research examining the impact of the performative arts on health and wellbeing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>swisscleantech</td>
<td>USD 1,000,000</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>To provide core support to swisscleantech to promote a sustainable economy in Switzerland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Conservation Fund *</td>
<td>USD 250,000</td>
<td>8 months</td>
<td>To provide emergency grant funds to rural community organisations in North Carolina, the US that address their needs as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Foundling Museum</td>
<td>USD 1,363,636</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>To provide core support to the Foundling Museum in central London, which works to improve the lives of children through the arts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS)</td>
<td>USD 811,688</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>To create a wellbeing garden as part of the Royal Horticultural Society’s Hilltop, the Home of Gardening Science at RHS Garden Wisley in the UK.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Sixteen</td>
<td>USD 194,805</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>To support the Sixteen, a choir and period-instrument orchestra committed to preserving and championing its choral heritage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Women’s Center, Inc. DBA Compass Center for Women and Families</td>
<td>USD 300,000</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>To support Compass Center for Women and Families to empower people and promote gender equity and economic justice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Yehudi Menuhin School</td>
<td>USD 649,351</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>To support the music director position at the Yehudi Menuhin School for five years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tivoli A/S</td>
<td>USD 73,746</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>To provide awards to young ballet dancers, choreographers, musicians, conductors, and composers in Denmark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triangle Residential Options for Substance Abusers, Inc.</td>
<td>USD 250,000</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>To build 61 units of residential housing for women as part of comprehensive substance abuse treatment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustees of Boston University</td>
<td>USD 200,000</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>To provide core support to the Women’s Veterans Network (WoVeN) in the US.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</td>
<td>USD 900,000</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>To support the University of North Carolina at the Mountain Area Health Education Center to increase access to medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of the People</td>
<td>USD 200,000</td>
<td>9 months</td>
<td>To contribute to the University of the People’s emergency scholarship fund, which will ensure that students experiencing financial difficulty as a result of Covid-19 can continue their studies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Voluntary Arts
USD 545,455 (3 years)
To support Voluntary Arts in the second phase of its Up for Arts project, a partnership with BBC local radio that aims to improve understanding of the positive role creative participation can play in improving mental wellbeing among older people.

YoungMinds
USD 389,610 (3 years)
To provide core support to ensure young people in the UK get the best possible mental health support.

Child safeguarding

Association ESPAS
USD 104,698 (18 months)
To provide comprehensive support to Oak grantee partners in Switzerland to develop and implement child safeguarding measures.

Darkness to Light
USD 460,000 (2 years)
To support Oak’s partners in the United States to strengthen and sustain their organisational child safeguarding arrangements.

Humanus - Apoio ao Desenvolvimento Profissional Ltda.
USD 122,713 (18 months)
To increase the knowledge, understanding and practice of Oak’s partners in Brazil on child safeguarding.

Impact and Innovations Development Centre (IIDC)
USD 460,000 (3 years)
To enhance the IIDC’s institutional capacity to support learning and improvement on safeguarding in Eastern Africa, as well as increasing the safeguarding capacities of Oak grantee partners in the region.

Capacity building

Catchafire
USD 249,500 (2 years)
To strengthen the organisational capacities of 150 Oak grantees through access to quality services offered by pro bono consultants.

Swiss Philanthropy Foundation
USD 600,000 (2 years)
To provide small grants to existing Oak grantee partners with the aim of improving the effectiveness and impact of not-for-profit organisations to bring about social change.

The Kairos Project
USD 150,379 (2 years)
To strengthen the leadership capacities of Oak’s partners by facilitating access to quality coaching services.

Special Initiative

HALO Trust **
USD 3,750,000 (4 years)
To provide support to the HALO Trust, which is leading conservation-focused development by funding landmine clearance in the Cuando Cubango Province in Angola.

* The Oxford University grant and the Conservation Fund grant are also listed in the Covid grant section of this report, on page 12.

** An additional USD 2 million will support the HALO Trust’s demining efforts in Zimbabwe. It is listed in the Zimbabwe Programme’s grant section of this report, on page 52.
Zimbabwe

Contributing to healthy and vibrant communities

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. All of our grants demonstrate the people-centred and community-focused efforts of our partners.

The country of Zimbabwe is important to Oak Foundation. Our Zimbabwe Programme provides grants to local organisations, and our Trustees provide additional support for the people of Zimbabwe through the Special Interest Programme, such as the work profiled in the article opposite.

In 2020, the Trustees also provided support to Zimbabwe through Special Initiative grants, as well as through our Wildlife, Conservation & Trade (WCT) sub-programme, which is part of our Environment Programme. The WCT grant has been listed on both pages 17 and 52.

The following story showcases the valiant efforts of our partners working in the medical field as they sought to stop the spread of Covid-19 in 2020, alongside their regular work.
Closing the health gap in Zimbabwe

As we live through a global health crisis, we are reminded that many people face barriers when it comes to accessing health services. To help close this healthcare gap, our partners, MiracleFeet and Council for the Blind Zimbabwe (ZCB), have been at the forefront of providing essential health treatments to people in Zimbabwe. MiracleFeet, with operations in 29 countries globally, aims to eradicate untreated clubfoot, and the Council for the Blind Zimbabwe works to prevent blindness, restore sight through surgery, and improve quality of life for those who are blind.

Like many other countries, in March 2020, medical services across Zimbabwe were impacted by a country-wide lockdown, interrupting healthcare for thousands. Despite the unprecedented challenges, MiracleFeet and ZCB found new, efficient, and creative ways of working.

While clubfoot clinics were closed, MiracleFeet and its local partner, the Zimbabwe Sustainable Clubfoot Program, stayed in close contact with patients through telephone calls and telehealth consultations. When clinics opened back up, MiracleFeet provided personal protective equipment, implemented social distancing protocols in the clinics, and increased travel subsidies for clinic visits.

By ensuring that more children have access to the treatment they need, MiracleFeet is reducing the number of children living with the many consequences of a physical disability, including stigma, discrimination, lower economic attainment, and limited mobility. MiracleFeet’s model empowers local partners through training programmes, expanding access to treatment, and integrating treatment into public health systems to create sustainable change.

Meanwhile ZCB works in collaboration with the government to provide quality eye care services at affordable prices to Zimbabwean communities. One of the services it offers is cataract surgery. A cataract is the clouding of the eye’s natural lens behind the iris and the pupil, causing blurred vision, and which, if left untreated, may lead to blindness. They can be removed with a very simple surgery that takes 15 minutes and costs about USD 80. However, the cost and medical equipment needed for this surgery puts it beyond the reach of many Zimbabweans.

The Richard Morris Eye Hospital is part of the United Bulawayo Hospital in the south of the country. With ZCB’s support, it is providing quality eye care services at affordable prices to people in Zimbabwe. The unit offers services that include screening, eye testing, and surgery.

Despite the focus of all hospitals on Covid-19-related illnesses, between January and September 2020, the Richard Morris Eye Hospital carried out 2,117 adult and 571 paediatric consultations. Four children were operated on for cataracts, as well as 451 adults.

In addition, to combat challenges presented by Covid-19, ZCB devised an infection control plan so that clients and staff could protect themselves from the virus. As well as supplying personal protective equipment, it launched a teleclinic system to provide medical guidance to patients virtually.

As inequalities deepen, the work of MiracleFeet and ZCB to ensure affordable and accessible medical treatment for people in Zimbabwe is especially important. Both clubfoot treatment and cataract surgery are relatively inexpensive and straightforward interventions which allow children and adults to thrive.

Caption: A new baby receives treatment in a MiracleFeet-supported clinic in Zimbabwe. Oak supports MiracleFeet in carrying out its work to heal babies born with clubfoot.
Grants

HIV/AIDS

Bethany Project
USD 76,580 (1 year)
To promote the wellbeing of children affected by HIV/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 affected by HIV and 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 provide quality palliative care in Bulawayo, Chitungwiza, Marondera and Mutare.

Kubatana Vocational Training Centre
USD 57,457 (1 year)
To provide primary healthcare to the communities during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mashambanzou Care Trust
USD 69,400 (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 37,527 (1 year)
To promote the welfare and safety of all children through a supportive, stimulating and inclusive environment.

Zimcare Trust
USD 335,509 (1 year)
To facilitate an environment in which all learning and care programmes support individual needs, so that each person can excel within their abilities.

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 continue support for children with disabilities.

NZEVE Deaf Children’s Centre
USD 66,692 (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 assist the Centre to care for vulnerable adults by providing education, training, and shelter.

Wildlife, Conservation & Trade sub-programme*

Frankfurt Zoological Society
USD 1,080,000 (17 months)
To support the conservation of the Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe.

Special Initiative**

HALO Trust
USD 2,000,000 (4 years)
To provide support to the HALO Trust, which is leading conservation-focused development by funding landmine clearance and restoring access to land and infrastructure for people in vulnerable border communities in Mashonaland Central Province in Zimbabwe.

Médecins Sans Frontières Suisse (MSF Switzerland)
USD 400,000 (1 year)
To support Médecins Sans Frontières in its global response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and specifically its response in Zimbabwe.

* We have also listed the Wildlife, Conservation, and Trade (WCT) grant that pertains to Zimbabwe here. All WCT grants, including the Frankfurt Zoological Society, are listed in the Environment Programme’s grant section, on page 17 of this report.

** USD 2 million of the HALO Trust grant will support demining efforts in Zimbabwe, and USD 3,750,000 will support demining efforts in Angola (see page 49). We have listed the Special Initiative grant to MSF here as it pertains to Zimbabwe. It is also listed in the Covid-19 grant section of this report, on page 11.
Protecting the environment and placing the welfare of people at the centre of development 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.

We support efforts to reach Indigenous and other traditional communities across Brazil, as well as vulnerable communities living in marginalised areas of large cities. In 2020, we supported efforts to fight against Covid-19, which compounded further the need for the efforts of our partners to help reduce violence and protect people’s rights. Activities of our partners 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.
Uniting to save lives during the pandemic

In both urban and rural regions, Brazil’s most vulnerable communities were impacted by the health, social, and economic consequences of the Covid-19 crisis. Our partners worked to protect people in urban favelas, as well as the territorial and environmental rights of vulnerable communities. They ensured that the voices of Indigenous communities were represented in policy-making processes, and that local communities received food and medicine during the crisis.

Despite social isolation measures, police violence in the favelas in Rio de Janeiro increased in the early days of the pandemic. Cecília Olliveira, executive director of Fogo Cruzado, said, “We were seeing escalating levels of state-perpetrated violence that were preventing people from accessing food and basic services. We knew something had to be done.”

“We were seeing escalating levels of state-perpetrated violence that were preventing people from accessing food and basic services. We knew something had to be done.”

Cecília Olliveira, Fogo Cruzado

Fogo Cruzado united with a network of not-for-profit organisations to file a lawsuit demanding that the state government suspend police operations in favelas for the duration of the pandemic. Their request was granted by the Federal Supreme Court in May 2020, which determined that such operations should be held only in exceptional circumstances. Consequently, homicides perpetrated by the police in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro dropped by 70 per cent, and the number of incidents involving firearms fell by 40 per cent.¹

In parallel, our partners worked to ensure that communities had access to emergency relief and adequate health services. Uneafro implemented a community health programme called Agentes Populares de Saúde, which brings together emergency relief support with direct health assistance provision to Covid-19 patients in São Paulo.

Movimento dos Pimpadores launched a campaign that benefited more than 1,500 recyclable waste pickers with emergency basic income during the pandemic, and Habitat Para a Humanidade took part in an advocacy campaign to suspend the enforcement of eviction orders.

Indigenous peoples and protected territories

On 1 April, the first case of Covid-19 in an Indigenous village in the Amazon was confirmed and by November 2020, 161 Indigenous communities were affected by Covid-19, with nearly 40,000 confirmed cases and 877 deaths.

During this time, there were heightened levels of violence against forest dwellers and environmental defenders. The National Coordination of Indigenous People of Brazil (APIB) worked to protect Indigenous communities and territories. In June 2020, in response to a lawsuit filed by APIB and a network of partner organisations, the Federal Supreme Court obliged the federal administration to develop and implement effective policy measures to safeguard Indigenous villages from Covid-19. In addition, organisations such as the Coordination of Indigenous Organisations of the Amazon Region and the Coordination of Indigenous Groups of the Amazon Basin ensured that the voices of Indigenous communities are represented in policy-making processes, and that they have access to food and medicine.

Our grant-making in Brazil seeks to deepen democracy and encourage inclusive public debates in pursuit of secure and sustainable communities, and the full protection of the rights of all Brazilians. To find out more about our strategy, please check out the Brazil page on our website.

References: Please see page 62 of this report.
Grants

Agencia Publica
USD 446,802 (3 years)
To support the production and dissemination of high-quality and independent investigative journalism focused on human rights in Brazil.

Alma Preta
USD 145,105 (2 years)
To produce and promote high-quality independent media content that shows the structural racism underlying Brazilian politics and society.

Centro de Estudos de Segurança e Cidadania
USD 630,637 (3 years)
To develop high-quality research on the costs of drug prohibition in the criminal justice, public health and education systems of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, Brazil.

Escola de Ativismo
USD 432,857 (3 years)
To strengthen democratic and non-violent forms of activism in Brazil through activist education programmes and knowledge production.

Federação de Órgãos para Assistência Social e Educacional (FASE)
USD 36,742 (6 months)
To support FASE in its work promoting the right to the city in the metropolitan region of Recife, Brazil.

Fundo Socioambiental CASA
USD 280,476 (2 years)
To strengthen the collective representation of traditional fishing communities in the Northeast of Brazil so that they will be better positioned to defend their social, environmental and territorial rights.

Fundo Socioambiental CASA
USD 2,249,758 (4 years)
To provide grant-making and institutional development support to eight former Joint Brazil Programme grantee partners over the course of four years (2020–2024).

Iniciativa Negra por uma Nova Política sobre Drogas
USD 226,394 (3 years)
To support high-quality research and strategic advocacy on the relationship between racism and the war on drugs, thereby contributing to a more humane and democratic drug policy.

Instituto for Technology & Society
USD 401,380 (3 years)
To counter disinformation by promoting media literacy and improving web-based platform regulations in Brazil.

Instituto Update
USD 159,403 (2 years)
To produce qualified, real-time and open data on gun violence in Brazilian cities.

Movimento de Pimpadores
USD 377,937 (2 years)
To provide core support to Movimento dos Pimpadores to improve the livelihoods of waste collectors in Brazil.

Nucleo de Apoio à Pesquisa e Educação Continuada
USD 125,000 (1 year)
To support Oak’s Brazil Programme with staff and logistic support.

Caption: Favelas, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

© Virginia Ruan/Oak Foundation
Communities need to work for everyone, where the roadmap to opportunity and systems that protect people are clear and available to all. 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 understand 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, and we realise that this was needed more than usual in 2020, due to the Covid-19 crisis. The article on the following page illustrates the work that was carried out in 2020 in direct response to Covid-19.
Consequences and creativity in the time of coronavirus

For vulnerable people in Denmark and Greenland, the coronavirus crisis served as a prism which magnified pre-existing challenges. Our partners rose to meet the needs of society’s most vulnerable people.

During lockdown, Oak Foundation Denmark gave emergency grants to 25 organisations working with people in need in Denmark and Greenland. We provided support to those experiencing homelessness, as well as towards the construction of an emergency shelter in Greenland, various initiatives in psychiatric wards, and coronavirus testing.

Some of the partners we supported during the lockdown include: Gadejuristen, a group of lawyers that work with people experiencing street homelessness; Brugernes Akademi, an association that works to create better conditions for people who take drugs in Denmark; Kirkens Korshær, which provides shelter for the socially vulnerable; and Hope Now, which works to combat human trafficking.

We wanted to know whether our funding was helping, and we also hoped to better understand people’s experiences of lockdown. To this end we funded a study, which gathered information from 32 social organisations and projects in Denmark working with highly vulnerable people. These include people experiencing homelessness, sex workers, drug users, the mentally ill, victims of violence, the incarcerated and others. We asked the following questions: How well did the emergency funds meet their needs? What are the consequences of a full-scale lockdown of society? What are the relevant experiences and conclusions to draw upon, should a similar situation arise in the future?

If you want to read the report, called User perspectives – Covid-19, please follow the link listed at the bottom of this page. It highlights how the Covid-19 lockdown measures had serious consequences for vulnerable members of society. Sadly, several people described how the bonds of trust with community members were broken due to physical distancing. This makes sense as it is clear to most people that personal encounters are central to building lasting relationships.

However, the report also points to some positive results of the lockdown. Oak Denmark’s partners gained valuable experience through virtual conversations and social media efforts. In addition, many activities were held outdoors: walks, including counselling, communal meals, and other outdoor activities, which affirmed and strengthened social relations. The increased focus on hygiene and nutrition has also led to improved health.

“We learned to take long walks during the confinement, for our mental, relational, and physical wellbeing, and for fitness’ sake,” said one participant from Hellebro, a shelter for young people. On the next page you will see a group of young people starting out on a walk to Roskilde, a town 46 kilometres away.

“We learned to take long walks during the confinement, for our mental, relational, and physical wellbeing, and for fitness’ sake.”

Participant, Hellebro shelter

Several organisations will continue to implement activities started during the lockdown. These include: the establishment and reinforcement of emergency planning; the development of contingency plans and crisis management strategies; and the increased collaboration with other organisations. “Because of the restrictions, the charities had to change to takeaway and also packing groceries for families,” said Karen-Inger Thorsen, CEO of Fodevarebanken, the only food bank that operates across Denmark. “It meant we had to deliver a different kind of food, which forced us to look for new food donors. We will continue this practice as it gives the communities a wider choice.”

Oak Foundation Denmark contributes to efforts that help people reach their full potential, be safe and healthy, and have a place to live. You can read more about Oak Foundation Denmark’s strategy on our website.

Check out the Covid-19 study funded by Oak Foundation Denmark here: https://www.socialrespons.dk/publikationer/brugerperspektiver-covid-19/

References: Please see page 62 of this report.
Grants

**Antidote Danmark**
USD 129,056 (2 years)
To provide a safe place for people who take drugs under the surveillance of medical specialists, and teach them how to help others who have overdosed.

**Fonden for socialt Ansvar**
USD 663,717 (3 years)
To support fathers to take more active roles in their children’s lives.

**Café Exit**
USD 115,693 (1 year)
To include the voices of incarcerated women and various stakeholders while creating the best possible prison for women.

**Digitalt Ansvær**
USD 353,015 (1 year)
To build up the organisation’s capacity to better protect survivors of digital violence.

**Exitcirklen**
USD 163,717 (1 year)
To help inform women of their right to divorce and right to marriage across national identity and religions.

**Fonden ConCura**
USD 111,460 (1 year)
To finance renovation of the roof at ConCura, a school that provides focused support to children with special needs.

**FødevareBanken**
USD 1,028,828 (3 years)
To increase capacity and upgrade FødevareBanken while continuing to reduce food waste.

**Ishtar**
USD 361,357 (3 years)
To help refugee and immigrant women in Copenhagen to develop their own food businesses.

**Justitia**
USD 442,478 (3 years)
To support vulnerable groups of citizens who lack legal rights, as well as exposure in public and political debates.

**KFUM’s Sociale Arbejde – Café Parasollen**
USD 103,982 (3 years)
To support Greenlandic people who frequent Café Parasollen (a social café) in Vejle.

**KFUM’s Sociale Arbejde – Café Stevnen**
USD 24,210 (1 year)
To renovate windows at Café Stevnen, a social shelter for people experiencing homelessness.

**KFUM’s Sociale Arbejde – Værestedet Ulfborg**
USD 44,144 (1 year)
To help prevent loneliness in a region of Western Jutland through outreach work.

**Muhabet**
USD 583,589 (3 years)
To give a vulnerable and isolated group of survivors of torture and war a place where they can find social support, get a healthy meal, eat with others, and receive help.

**MusikBeRiget**
USD 75,364 (3 years)
To support children and their relatives in hospitals and people in psychiatric hospitals by creating a musical room where they can experience a sense of normality and community.

**Siu Tsiu**
USD 939,581 (3 years)
To build workplaces based on social economy in Nuuk, Greenland.

**Spodcast.dk**
USD 22,050 (1 year)
To make podcast stories about Danish women who leave violent partners.

**Caption:** A group set out from Hellebro shelter for young people on a walk during the confinement in 2020.
Everyone should have a fair chance at creating a life for themselves in which they can move beyond mere survival to achieve their full potential. Many, however, lack those opportunities simply because of where they are born or who they are.

The India Programme supports efforts to sustainably improve the lives of marginalised people in West Bengal, a state in the eastern region of India on the Bay of Bengal. These include vulnerable workers, Indigenous communities known as Adivasis, and adult and child migrants, whose needs and rights have been neglected.

Our primary grant-making focus centres on two sub-regions within West Bengal where all three groups live – the tea gardens of North Bengal and the Sundarbans coastal region, which also face climate-related and other challenges.

Our secondary grant-making focus is in other districts in West Bengal that are home to one or more of the three priority groups – unorganised workers, Indigenous communities, and migrants. We hope to produce evidence from locations across West Bengal that can inform and influence desired systemic changes at the state and national levels so that all people have a chance to thrive.

If you want to learn about the India Programme’s new strategy, check out the India page on our website.
Grassroot leadership in the face of adversity

While the Covid-19 virus in 2020 caused many challenges, we were inspired by the stories of resilience and courage that came from our partners in India. Frontline workers and volunteers took their places as natural leaders to ensure that vulnerable communities were supported by communal safety nets in practical ways, helping to mitigate risk.

Covid-19 restrictions meant that many of our partners were not able to travel to the districts where they normally carry out their work. In their absence, community volunteers and peer leaders rose to the occasion. For example, in Murshidabad, a prolific trafficking corridor, community members protected young women and girls from being trafficked across the border for the sex trade, or forced into early, unwanted marriages. In addition, in the districts of North and South 24 Parganas, collectives of women survivors of commercial sexual exploitation created informal watch groups to prevent trafficking and child marriage. Local partners Kamonohashi, Terre des Hommes, Suprava Panchila Mahila Udyog Samity, and Goranbose Gramin Bikas Kendra are proud that survivor leaders are breaking the stigma, and providing leadership and inspiration to protect communities.

Domestic workers supported by not-for-profit organisation Nirmana demanded temporary ration cards from local, elected representatives. While the application was in process, they ensured that a month’s supply of dry rations were made available for their domestic worker peers. In Ranchi, women who had attended the SEWA Bharat training to help empower domestic workers, confidently demanded that mobile food distribution be regularised in their community. As a result, 100 households benefitted. “I learned about tactics to claim rights and entitlements from the SEWA Bharat community training,” said domestic worker Rita Devi.

Sections of the city of Kolkata were cordoned off in attempts to contain the spread of the virus. This impacted the work of women taxi-drivers trained by Azad Foundation. While Azad was unable to visit these communities, two women who had been trained as feminist leaders ensured that 868 families received provisions provided by the government.

At Kolkata’s Pavlov Mental Health Hospital, the lockdown further deepened the isolation of 300 women affected by mental illness in the shanty ward. Anjali, an organisation that facilitates art-based therapeutic activities for the women, was forced to cancel its activities indefinitely. In Anjali’s absence, four women took it upon themselves to ensure that the hospital maintained a high level of hygiene in order to keep the women safe.

These reports of resilience, adaptability, and tenacity as we pass through extraordinary circumstances, inspire us to continue our efforts to continue to strengthen the work of our partners around the world. Oak’s capacity building support, which involves training community members to know their rights, aims to encourage them to demonstrate their leadership, especially in unexpected circumstances.

If you would like to know more about this support, please check out our website. https://oakfnd.org/values-mission-history/cbod/ Well done to our partners and the community workers in India!
Grants

Association for Advocacy and Legal Initiatives
USD 573,846 (4 years)
To continue to help women and girls in Jharkhand to exercise their entitlements.

Association for India’s Development
USD 207,450 (3 years)
To support Indigenous communities from 200 villages across four districts of West Bengal to ensure that forest resources are sustainably used, conserved, and regenerated.

Azad Foundation
USD 423,194 (2 years)
To equip women in Kolkata, India, to train as professional drivers.

Child Resilience Alliance
USD 450,204 (3 years)
To develop vibrant community-led processes that actively engage with and support local government efforts on child protection.

Find Your Feet
USD 173,408 (2 years)
To support tribal people to safeguard their rights in three districts of Jharkhand state, India by strengthening tribal-led organisations and networks.

Fund For Global Human Rights
USD 400,000 (3 years)
To enable people’s organisations in selected locations of West Bengal to directly access institutions that are critical in protecting their constitutional and legal rights.

Hope and Homes for Children
USD 659,360 (4 years)
To spur the momentum for care reform and family-based alternative care in India by strengthening the capacity of child protection actors.

Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment
USD 507,267 (3 years)
To facilitate the effective implementation of environmental laws in West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Orissa.

Praxis – Institute for Participatory Practices *
USD 150,000 (6 months)
To support a cluster of organisations to enable 10,000 households in South and North 24 Parganas, West Bengal to mitigate the risks induced by recent emergencies such as Covid-19 and Supercyclone Amphan.

Save the Children India- Bal Raksha Bharat
USD 438,323 (3 years)
To protect children from multiple risks and existing harmful practices by ensuring the local child protection workforce meets established occupational standards in West Bengal and Jharkhand.

SEWA Bharat
USD 609,285 (3 years)
To support women in the unorganised workforce in Jharkhand and West Bengal, India.

Terre des Hommes Lausanne
USD 561,739 (3 years)
To enable survivors of trafficking and exploitation in Jharkhand and West Bengal to reintegrate back into their communities, based on their choices and facilitated by a supportive ecosystem.

* The Praxis grant is also listed in the Covid grant section of this report, on page 12.

Caption: The photos in the India Programme section of the report depict our partners’ efforts to sustainably improve the lives of marginalised people in West Bengal.
References

International Human Rights

Issues Affecting Women

Learning Differences

Prevent Child Sexual Abuse

Special Interest

Brazil

Oak Foundation
Denmark

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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