



Contents

04

About Oak

Our history
Letter from the Trustees
Our grant-making in 2024
Supporting our partners

10

Closure of India and Brazil Programmes

12

Environment

17

Housing and Homelessness

22

International Human Rights

27

Issues Affecting Women

32

Learning Differences

37

Prevent Child Sexual Abuse

42

Special Interest

52

Brazil

55

Oak Foundation Denmark

58

India

61

Zimbabwe

66

References

Our history



Since its establishment in 1983, Oak Foundation has made grants to not-for-profit organisations to contribute to a fairer, safer, and more sustainable world.

The resources of Oak Foundation originated from an interest in the Duty Free Shoppers business which Alan Parker helped to build. Today, the Foundation comprises a group of philanthropic organisations based in various countries around the world.

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

Since then Oak has been growing steadily and today we have seven global programmes and four country programmes. Our seven main programmes are: Environment, Housing and Homelessness, International Human Rights, Issues Affecting Women, Prevent Child Sexual Abuse, Learning Differences, and Special Interest. Our country programmes are Oak Foundation Denmark, Zimbabwe, India, and Brazil.

Oak Foundation has its main administrative office in Geneva, Switzerland, and a presence in four other countries: Denmark, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Zimbabwe. Check out our website to find out more: www.oakfnd.org.

Letter from the Trustees

We remain grateful to our partners for their ongoing efforts. In 2024, we provided 411 programme grants to 368 organisations in 40 countries for a total of USD 466 million.

Oak Foundation was established to support the philanthropic passions of our family. Because we are in the midst of welcoming several new Trustees to the Foundation, we have had to make some changes to make space for their new and emerging interests.

One of the changes in 2024 was the difficult decision to close our country programmes in India and Brazil. We will respect our existing grant agreements and provide support to our partners in other ways, including with capacity-strengthening support and exit grants. It has been an honour to be a small part of our partners' efforts through these two country programmes. Their work has been a source of inspiration to us for more than 14 years. You can read an article commemorating their achievements on pages 10 and 11.

Every year, our annual report is a reminder of the hope and joy we feel throughout the year when hearing about our partners' efforts. Some of this year's highlights include:

Our **Environment Programme's** partners in Southern Africa have been implementing regenerative agriculture practices, which have huge potential to renew degraded croplands at scale. The result will be positive social, economic, and environmental outcomes for the benefit of both nature and people.

In Massachusetts, the US, our **Housing and Homelessness Programme's** partners are supporting low-income families to help them stay in their homes. By supporting investment in affordable housing, we hope to strengthen renter rights and encourage sensible changes to planning systems – so that more people live in decent homes and fewer people experience homelessness and housing insecurity.

There are over 15 million stateless people in the world, and tens of millions are at risk of statelessness. Our **International Human Rights Programme's** partners are working to put people impacted by statelessness at the heart of initiatives for legal reform and action.

Our **Issues Affecting Women Programme's** partners in the US and the UK are committed to securing safety for survivors of economic abuse. Building economic independence is a priority so that survivors can live safely once they leave abusive relationships.

In 2024, our **Learning Differences Programme** partnered with eight not-for-profit organisations that seek to promote mental wellness among learners through innovative projects. Our partners foster a sense of belonging for children with learning differences and equip teachers to better support their students.

Our **Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Programme** supported the launch of the 'To Zero' initiative to accelerate progress in ending childhood sexual violence by working with sector leaders, practitioners, and survivors to envision a safer future.

Through our **Special Interest Programme**, we support organisations like the Antimicrobial Initiative, which seeks to decrease antimicrobial resistance in humans and animals in Europe, and the UK-based David Nott Foundation, which works alongside surgeons in situations of war, providing training to medical staff around the world. In the US, our partner Justice Outside supports conservation work and equal access to outdoor recreation. In Jersey, the Beresford Street Kitchen is transforming the lives of people with learning differences and/or autism. We also continued our support of the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme in Covent Garden, London, which offers exceptional artists from around the world the opportunity of a lifetime: to work alongside accomplished performers, creators, and musicians. This year, we celebrated a significant milestone for our partner MiracleFeet – it reached and treated 100,000

children with clubfoot across 37 countries.

Based in Copenhagen, Denmark, I Tråd Med Verden is an **Oak Foundation Denmark** partner that works to connect women furthest from opportunity with meaningful work through sewing and textile design. Our **Zimbabwe Programme** supports Young Africa, which aims to train half a million young people across Southern Africa to be ready for employment by 2025.

In this report, we celebrate our partners' remarkable work in India and Brazil. We have highlighted our support for girls in West Bengal who have been trafficked, helping them start their journeys of recovery and access their entitlements. We have also showcased our support for communities in the remote, resource-rich, and biodiverse Matopiba region in northern Brazil so that they can live prosperously in a secure, inclusive, and equitable society.

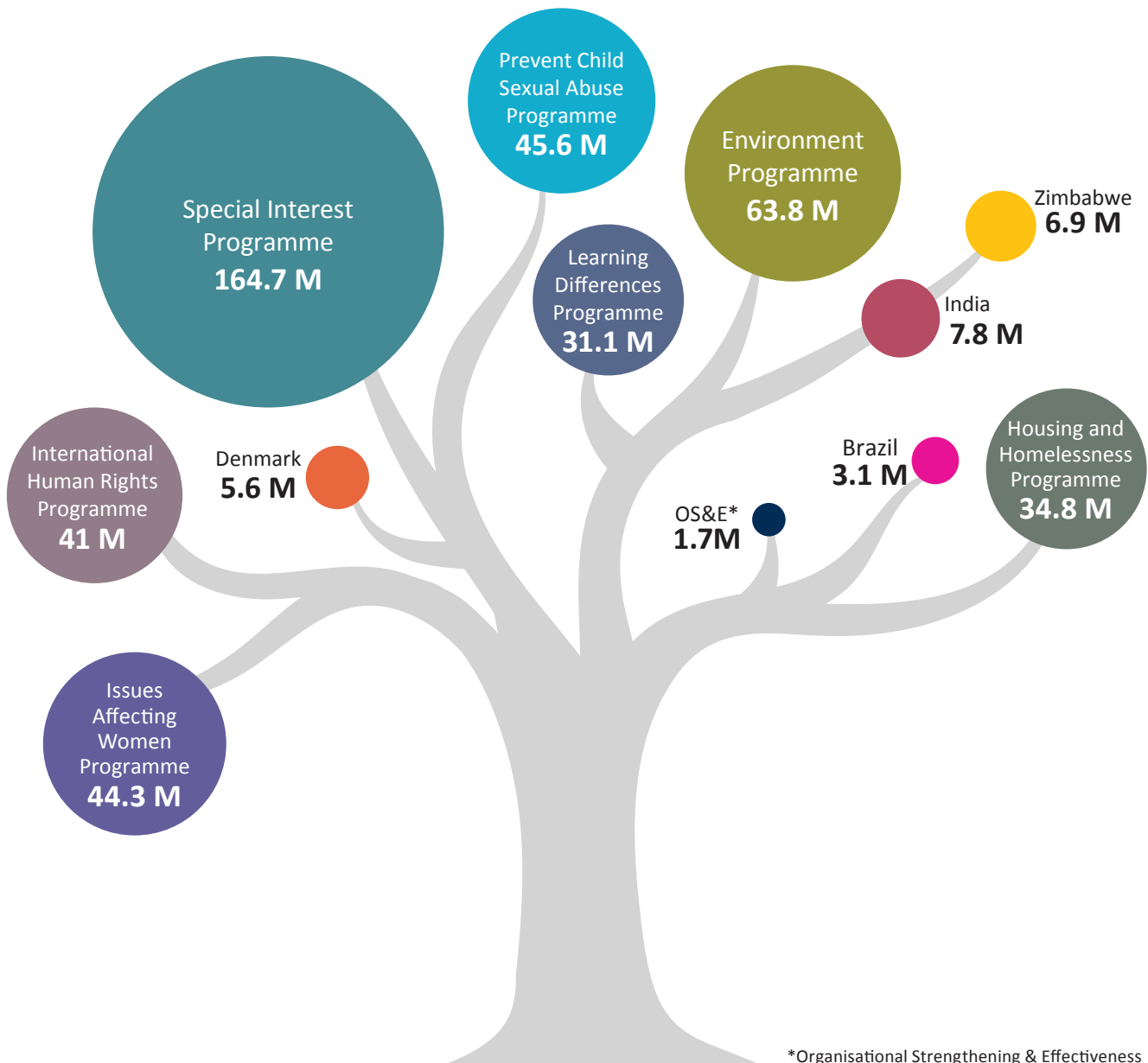
The wide variety of our partners' work inspires us. We look forward to continuing our collaboration to craft a more positive future.

The Parker Family

Our grant-making in 2024

Through our grant-making, we contribute to a safer, fairer, and more sustainable world. In 2024, Oak Foundation's net grant-making to organisations around the world totalled USD 466 million. This figure includes 411 programme grants and 607 discretionary grants.

Programme grant-making in 2024 in USD million



*Organisational Strengthening & Effectiveness

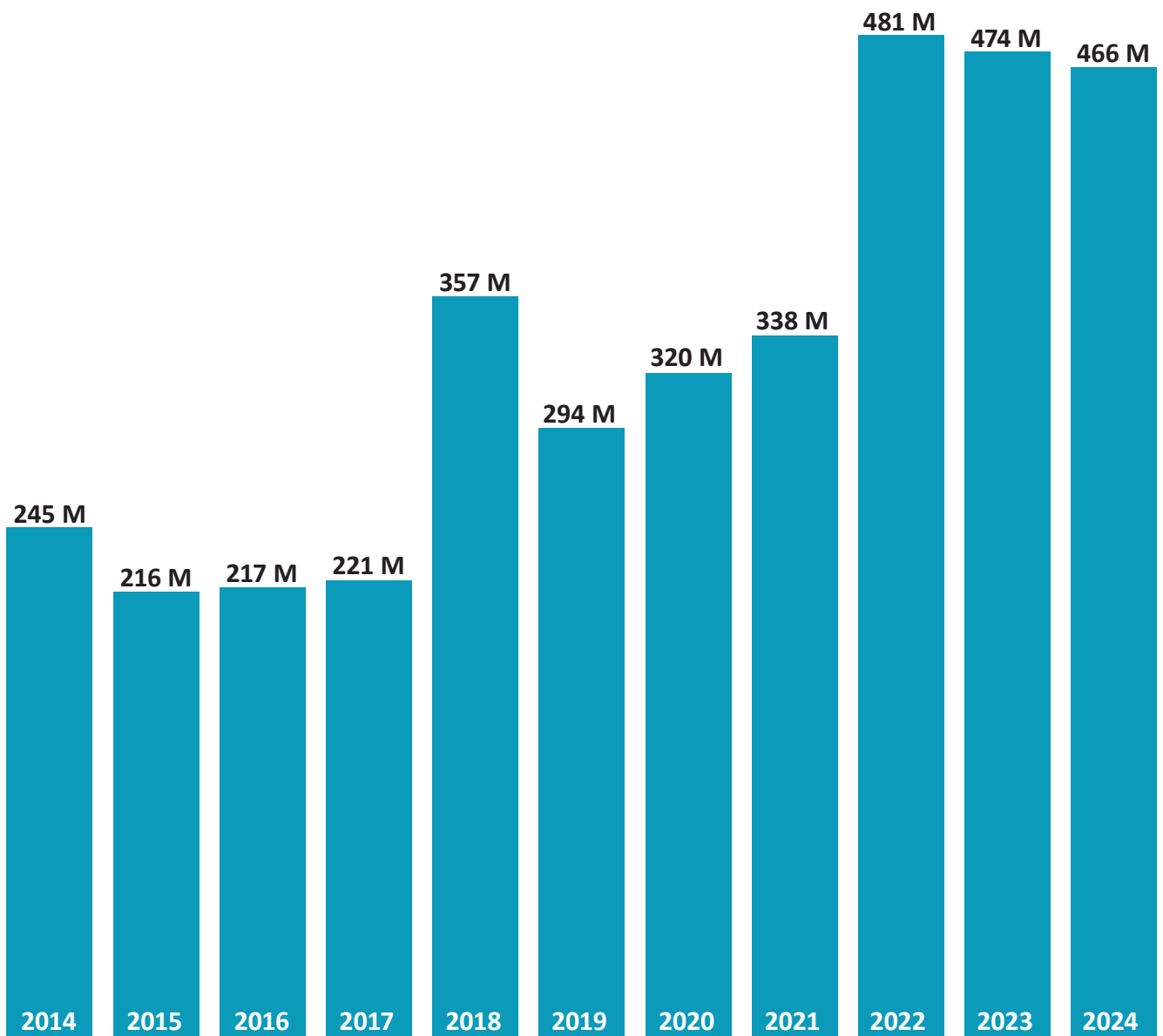
Grant-making highlights

We provided
411
programme grants

in
40
countries

totalling
466
in USD million

Total grant-making 2014-2024 in USD million



Supporting partners beyond funding

Alongside our grant-making, we strive to be a purposeful, supportive partner. Therefore, we prioritise working with our grantee partners to provide additional support if needed. For example, we provide organisational strengthening support, which targets the areas our partners consider necessary to deliver their missions. Our child safeguarding officer helps protect the children our partners come in contact with. Our monitoring, evaluation, and learning specialist helps us better understand how we can improve our grant-making. Our communications team helps ensure transparency around our grant-making and elevates the great work of our partners. Read on to find out more about our work in 2024.

Organisational strengthening & effectiveness

In today's challenging and rapidly changing environment, organisations must continuously adapt and strengthen their capacities to remain resilient and effective. This is why we provide capacity-strengthening support through our organisational development (OD) fund, managed in partnership with Swiss Philanthropy Foundation since 2020. This fund has proven to be an invaluable tool for many organisations, enabling them to enhance their operations and achieve long-term sustainability.

The OD fund supports a wide array of organisational development needs, including strategic planning, board development, fundraising, child safeguarding, leadership, and communication efforts. By offering grants that range from USD 5,000 to USD 30,000, with project durations from three months to one and a half years, organisations can hire external consultants and build internal capacity in key areas. This support has led to significant improvements

in financial operations, fundraising strategies, strategic planning, and child-safeguarding policies and procedures.

Organisations which received OD grants report long-term benefits such as: increased self-sufficiency; improved service delivery; enhanced organisational resilience; stronger financial health; and a shift towards building internal expertise. One partner highlighted the importance of its strategic plan, developed with OD fund support: "Having a written strategy that the entire team collaborated on has been hugely helpful; it's allowed us to focus on what we want to do, turn down ideas that don't fit strategically, and also clearly explain to others where we are aiming to go."

Our partners appreciated the quality of support and collaboration provided, both by Oak staff and external consultants. Partners appreciated that the grant management process, managed by Swiss Philanthropy Foundation, is smooth, efficient, and transparent. This positive feedback underscores our commitment to being a flexible donor partner, dedicated to supporting organisations in building their resilience.

Our partners have made several recommendations to further enhance the effectiveness and impact of the OD fund. These include: increasing grant amounts and durations; providing more flexible funding that can be accessed on a rolling basis for unexpected OD needs; enhancing communication and transparency; facilitating peer learning and knowledge sharing; and offering in-kind support such as technical assistance in programme development, finance, operations, and governance.

At Oak, we believe that support for organisational strengthening projects is essential for the sustainability of our partners. We want our support to be more than just funding. If you are an Oak Foundation partner, 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 and ensure their organisations are safe for children. For us, this also means constantly improving our knowledge, our policies, and our collaboration with our partners.

Oak staff are trained yearly on child safeguarding. Our 2024 training focused on our organisational policy and processes, including how Oak supports its partners to assess their child-safeguarding systems and access expert support when needed. Recently we identified new experts, notably in the United States, to better support partners.

At the end of 2024, we integrated the child safeguarding self-assessment into our grant management system (GMS) to ease the administrative burden on our partners and improve our internal processes. Going forward, our partners will be able to complete their self-assessment within our system, when submitting their applications and reports. The validity of this self-assessment has been extended from one to three years. 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, & learning

At Oak Foundation, we strive to maximise the impact of our grant-making and work with our partners to achieve the changes we want to see in the world. Collecting, consolidating, analysing, and seeing evidence of the impact we contribute to, understanding what works, and embedding reflective practice in our routines is essential to achieving positive change and to guiding our strategic decision-making.

In 2024, our programme staff continued to: improve their ability to collect and use data on impact; use their learning to inform decision making and enhance the effectiveness of our programme strategies; and create spaces for reflection and learning – both internally and with our partners.

Oak's programmes commission external reviews and evaluations when needed, to better understand rapidly changing contexts, help find fit-for-purpose solutions, and inform us and our partners on where and how we can be most effective.

We continue to improve our reporting approaches and our tracking systems, so we can understand whether we are making progress, without increasing the reporting burden on our partners. For example, we have been partnering with other funders and intermediaries in the climate sphere to rethink reporting, including through the design and use of joint reporting templates to minimise the number of reports needed.

In collaboration with the communications team, our senior adviser for impact trained programme staff on impact storytelling underpinned by strong evidence. This training aimed to help develop a storytelling mindset at Oak by sharing knowledge and approaches that can enable us and our grantee partners to develop compelling narratives about our grants, backed up by robust evidence.

We believe in engaging and collaborating with other actors in the philanthropic field to stay abreast of best practices when it comes to monitoring, evaluation, and learning.

To this end, in 2024, our senior adviser for impact conducted a review of available evidence on the impact of core funding. She has shared her findings widely through an article on our website, blogs, and webinars. We continue to seek to promote equitable and trust-based approaches that shift power to our partners and the communities they work with.

Communications

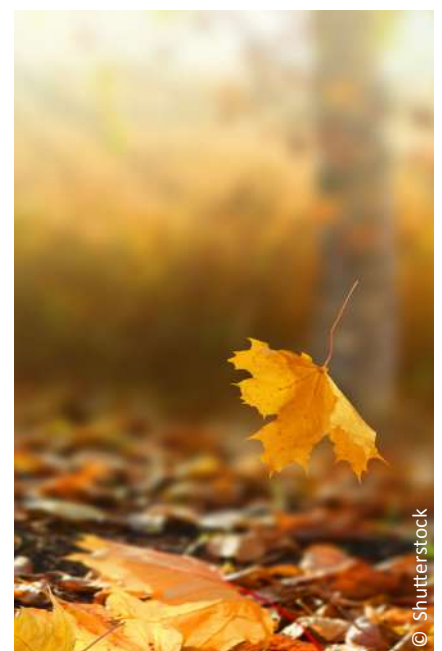
We know that good communication helps ensure transparency around our grant-making and elevates the voices of those who are the least heard. It is our honour to raise the voices of the people who benefit from the great work that our partners carry out around the world.

Our communications team plays a central role in Oak's operations. In addition to our twice-yearly Oak-wide newsletters, our annual report, and our social media channels, the stories page on our website aims to bring to life the work of our grantee partners and share stories of their success in making the world fairer, safer, and more sustainable.

We worked with programmes across the Foundation to share two scoping studies seeking to identify and promote opportunities for funding partnerships in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and Latin America. The studies contain detailed philanthropic landscape analyses, profiles of prospective partners, and essential principles and practices for effective support. We value collaboration, and actively seek partners in our collective efforts to contribute to a better world. We hope that the results of these studies also inspire you and support your efforts. Please check out our LinkedIn account if you would like to know more.

Oak values communications as a vehicle for social change and provides funding for communication initiatives within our programmes. We also support organisational-strengthening 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.

We love to hear success stories from our partners: please reach out to the communications team so that we can share more about your success. We are also open to feedback – so please let us know if you think we can improve our communications.





Closure of India and Brazil Programmes

Oak Foundation is a family foundation that was established to support the Parker family to pursue their philanthropic passions. We are in the midst of welcoming several new Trustees to the Foundation, and as a result, we have had to make some changes to allow for the emerging interests of our Trustees.

One of the changes includes the difficult decision to close our country programmes in India and Brazil. It has been an honour to be a small part of our partners' efforts through these two country programmes; their work has been a source of inspiration to us for more than 14 years.

While the country programmes will close, we remain committed to supporting organisations in India and Brazil through our other programmes (Environment, Prevent Child Sexual Abuse, International Human Rights, and Issues Affecting Women). Our transition plans to facilitate these changes, with as little disruption to our partners' work as possible, are underway. We will be respecting our existing grant agreements and providing support to our partners in other ways, including with capacity-strengthening support and exit grants.

We thank our partners for their understanding as we work with the teams to implement these changes

seamlessly and conscientiously. We also want to take this opportunity to thank all Oak staff who have worked for and supported the India and Brazil Programmes over the years. Their dedication, compassion, and comprehensive approach to grant-making has been an inspiration to all of us.

Below we outline some of the achievements of our partners.

India

Since 2006, Oak has provided USD 129 million in grants supporting work in India. This total includes grants from several of our main programmes, as well grants made through the India Programme.

Specifically, Oak has committed approximately USD 85 million to about 120 partners working in Jharkhand and West Bengal through its India Programme since it began in 2011. We have also committed to a transition fund of USD 12 million to provide phase-out grants over the next two to three years.

The current strategy focuses on supporting equitable opportunities to communities and people, including workers in the informal sector, Indigenous communities, adult and child migrants, and women, whose needs have been neglected for decades, primarily in the tea gardens

of North Bengal and the Sundarbans coastal region.

In the Darjeeling and adjoining tea-growing region in the Dooars, we have worked with local tea companies, tea worker collectives, the government, and trade-related agencies to improve working and living conditions for tea garden workers. Through our grant-making, we have helped them to access benefits, social entitlements, and minimum wages. We have also helped them gain access to ration cards and identity cards, which provide access to subsidised food and oil, together with conditional cash transfers like pensions and disability entitlements.

In the Sundarbans, after several years of work, we have seen success on several fronts. We have supported fisherwomen who, due to water pollution, have been forced to give up their livelihoods and find other ways to live. We have also helped our partners to introduce sustainable agriculture practices that build resilience among farmers. We have



Captions

Above: Tea-growing communities in the Darjeeling region of West Bengal.

Opposite: Communities from the Matopiba region in the north of Brazil.

also helped our partners to share know-how on various integrated farming methods that increase crop productivity, such as diversifying crops, raising small livestock, and building rainwater harvesting structures.

In the Sundarbans, we have supported partners to work closely with communities to increase school attendance and reduce child labour, improve mental healthcare, and support survivors of incest and child sexual abuse. Our partners provide reintegration services that help girls and women who have been rescued from trafficking and domestic violence situations. (Read more in our Annual Report article on pages 59 and 60.) We have supported communities in accessing improved services and tackling issues like early marriage.

It has been an honour to be a small part of their inspiring efforts. Their work to support the needs of so many people, including women and children, and to improve citizenship rights, livelihoods, and essential services in India has been a source of inspiration to all of us at Oak.

Brazil

Since 2000, Oak has provided USD 106 million in grants exclusively in Brazil. This total includes discretionary grants, and grants made through several of our other programmes, as well as through the Brazil Programme. Through the Brazil Programme, which started in 2016, we have provided approximately USD 29 million to 56 partners working in the country. We have also committed to a transition fund of USD 4.5 million to provide phase-out grants over the next two to three years.

Our current strategy focuses on supporting civil society to enable people and communities to have access to what they need to live prosperous lives in a secure, inclusive, and equitable society.

Since the start of the programme, our partners' work in Brazil has included helping to build strong networks to promote social change.

They have supported movements and organisations committed to building fairer cities, with more participatory urban planning processes, greater land tenure security, and improved and accessible public transport. Our partners have worked to support people and communities who are in danger of losing their homes, including by piloting technical and legal solutions that can help protect communities at risk of eviction.

Public campaigns led by our partners have represented communities' needs in regard to public security, and aimed to make the police and criminal justice systems less discriminatory, fairer, and more effective in reducing violence through humane and evidence-based approaches.

Our partners have worked to improve the equity, transparency, and the overall tenor of public discourse in Brazil, including by promoting a safer digital sphere where quality public debate can take place. They have also increased the transparency, independence, and diversity of newsrooms, and given visibility to key issues affecting under-resourced

communities, by providing journalistic coverage for the public interest. During Covid-19, our partners worked to ensure that under-resourced communities had access to emergency relief and adequate health services. During this time, they also launched a campaign that gave more than 1,500 recyclable waste pickers an emergency basic income, and took part in a campaign to suspend the enforcement of eviction orders.

Our partners seek to protect the local communities that sustainably steward biodiversity in Brazil, including in the rainforests and savannahs. To this end, they support Indigenous and traditional peoples across the Amazon and Matopiba region. (Read more in our Annual Report article on page 53.)

We are encouraged by the strong civic movements our partners have helped to foster. We are honoured to have been able to support their impactful work, which has enhanced the lives of so many people.



Environment



Safeguarding our future by restoring our connection to nature, and changing the ways we feed and fuel our world

Supporting landscape restoration and rewilding activities for the benefit of both people and wildlife in Southern Africa forms part of our funding efforts. We do this in ways that respect and protect people's rights to and interests in natural resources. Our partners working in this area seek to: improve biodiversity, water, and soil conservation; mitigate climate change; diversify community livelihoods; and create economically resilient farming communities. Our partners listen to farmers when they share their local knowledge, as they are the ones who know best their own land.

Climate change has led to changes in weather patterns which are negatively impacting rain-fed agriculture. Our partners support women, youth, farmers, herders, and traditional leadership to strengthen rural collectives and improve the distribution of benefits from natural wealth, for example through nature-based tourism and the sustainable harvesting of wild species. Our partners also connect networks that share socioecological and conservation aims, and promote new thinking among funders and decision-makers about conservation work that does not isolate wildlife and wild places from the people who live in and around them.

In this year's annual report, we have focused on the Regenerative Landscapes Sub-programme. Regenerative agriculture practices have huge potential to restore degraded landscapes, resulting in positive social, economic, and environmental outcomes. We are excited about supporting partners in this area of work, and we hope you enjoy reading about it.

Working with communities and the land in Zimbabwe

Ronika Mumbire stands under a blue sky looking out over rows of green crops on a plot of land in Mutoko, a mountainous, semi-arid region in the east of Zimbabwe. Vegetables, beans, and green mealies – a maize which does well in this climate – are all growing here, in the Mu-uyu Baobab Women’s Agroecological Garden.

Ronika is the executive director of the Zimbabwe Women’s Bureau, a not-for-profit organisation that provides rural women farmers with training in conservation agricultural practices, as well as business entrepreneurship and livelihood support. The Zimbabwe Women’s Bureau also provides women with financial and material support to get them started in their businesses. Currently, the team at Zimbabwe Women’s Bureau are training 36 women farmers in agroecology, which includes farming practices such as crop rotation, composting, and mulching. The trainings have also helped the women to claim their rights to land resources. Access to land is key for rural women to be able to practise agroecology.

The official opening ceremony for the Mu-uyu Baobab Women’s Agroecological community garden was held in October 2024, and participants were already selling crops harvested from the land at local markets by November. Rosemary Chiripanyanga is the Chairperson of the Mu-uyu Agroecological Garden. Preparing the land for planting was hard work, but the women worked together to ready the soil. “We are looking forward to a prosperous future,” says Rosemary, “where we can sustain our livelihoods, including affording school fees for our children.”

The Zimbabwe Women’s Bureau launched the Mu-uyu Baobab Women’s Agroecological community garden. Ronika believes the garden is an opportunity for growth and change. “It will transform the lives of the local women,” she says.

Implemented at scale, regenerative agriculture practices such as this one in the Mu-uyu Baobab Women’s Agroecological Garden have huge potential to regenerate degraded croplands, leading to improved food security and biodiversity conservation.

In another corner of Zimbabwe, this model is being implemented on a larger scale. In the arid southeast Lowveld region of the country lies the Malipati farming community, a remote, hot, place in the extreme south of the Gonarezhou National Park. As in Mutoko, most people living in Malipati eat what they can hunt or grow, which varies year-on-year. Farmers in Malipati practise dryland slash-and-burn rain-fed agriculture, and this has led to massive soil and landscape degradation. Climate change has led to changes in weather patterns that negatively impact rain-fed agriculture. Community reliance on rain-fed agriculture means that annual crop failures are becoming the norm – resulting in chronic food insecurity and malnutrition.

Sustainable Agricultural Technology’s Wildlife and Livelihoods Development (SATWILD) programme empowers local communities to become active conservation partners. SATWILD does this by first supporting communities to address food insecurity.

“

“We recognise the need for food security, and that the lack thereof is driving greater environmental degradation and deforestation,” says Chap Masterson, technical coordinator of SATWILD. “This is threatening whole communities. That is why we are investing in basic livelihood solutions.”

To this end, SATWILD has constructed an integrated Agriculture hub (Agri-hub), which includes a 36-hectare solar-powered irrigation scheme. This will benefit 9,500 smallholder farmers. By adopting agroecological farming practises





supported by the Agri-hub, farmers are now growing enough food on much less land, allowing 25,000 hectares of degraded cropland to recover. The Malipati Agri-hub also supports innovative solutions for enhanced food security and climate resilience at household level, while supporting the restoration of degraded agricultural land, rivers, wetlands, and catchments.

The restored croplands will help re-establish important wildlife corridors and reduce human and wildlife conflicts, which are when wild animals destroy crops or kill livestock. They are quite common in Malipati. The Agri-hub will improve food security, increase local employment opportunities, and improve community wellbeing overall.

SATWILD uses a participatory approach to working with communities. “What we have focused on over the last ten to twelve years is engaging with communities, getting to understand them, and working with them to try to identify good solutions and sustainable future trajectories,” says Chap. “We have also rejuvenated grazing for their livestock, which is one of the most important assets, from both an economic and cultural point of view.”

In another effort to develop and scale natural resources conservation efforts, in 2023 and 2024 Gonarezhou and Akagera National Parks hosted

the Effective Conservation Training Initiative in Zimbabwe and Rwanda, respectively. This is a field-based two-week-long training initiative for potential team leaders working in conservation that takes place every year, though in different parks. The course allows participants the chance to directly engage with and learn from veteran conservationists from around the world. Participants also learn from each other and share their own experiences and challenges.

“The idea was to combine experience and human resources, identify people working in conservation projects, and train them to the next level to become effective conservation leaders who can manage complex problems and human teams,” says Ignacio Jiménez, coordinator of the Effective Conservation Training Initiative.

This ongoing training programme aims to increase the number of conservation leaders managing complex programmes and multidisciplinary teams in conservation landscapes around the world. Leading conservation organisations working on different continents share their practical knowledge with each other, train

and inspire their staff, and assess and identify potential recruits capable of managing some of their programmes and teams in the field.

Participants came from Africa, South America, Australia, and Germany. This diversity of experience enriches the learning, where participants and local community members alike can share what they know works, and bring what they learn back to their respective countries.

“What we are doing is the equivalent of sending lots of seeds to different continents, from which I think some of the best conservation programmes are going to flow in the future,” says Ignacio.

Ian Munyankindi, who has been working for the not-for-profit African Parks since 2012, took part in the training. About the course, he says, “It’s helped me to get all the tools that I needed to be a very good leader and to be successful in my conservation career for myself, and for our world.”

This work falls under the Regenerative Landscapes Sub-programme of our Environment Programme, which envisions a world in which degraded landscapes and ecosystems are restored for the benefit of both people and wildlife. Please check out our online version of the report to see a video made by the Zimbabwe Women’s Bureau.

Grants

Alinea Network Organisation Limited

USD 3,500,000 (3 years)

To support the Wildlife Crime Prevention Project's partner organisations in sub-Saharan Africa, facilitating community-focused conservation, consolidating resources, and promoting wildlife conservation.

Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA)

USD 1,100,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to AFSA to help it accelerate the implementation of regenerative agroecology to achieve food sovereignty across the African continent.

Atlantic Council of the United States Inc.

USD 448,394 (3 years)

To help raise awareness about the need to build a better future through gaming technologies for our children and communities, and ensure a sustainable and thriving planet for generations to come.

Blue Ventures Conservation

USD 1,800,000 (3 years)

To promote sustainable fishing practices globally.

Center for International Environmental Law Inc. (CIEL)

USD 1,500,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to CIEL for its work defending the right to a healthy planet.

Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP)

USD 799,827 (4 years)

To support CSTEP in its efforts to create clean air and a sustainable, secure future for all.

Clean Air Fund

USD 5,000,000 (3 years)

To build an environment that improves air quality in countries across the Global South.

Climate Policy Initiative

USD 400,633 (3 years)

To provide core support to Climate Policy Initiative to support a transition to a low carbon economy by focusing on sectors like building and construction, agriculture, and energy.

ClimateWorks Foundation- US

USD 1,000,000 (3 years)

To empower leaders from rural communities to integrate clean energy development, nature-inclusive farming, and landscape restoration to enhance the livelihoods and wellbeing of rural communities.

Conserve Global

USD 600,000 (3 years)

To strengthen leadership in the Kunene Highlands, Namibia, to manage the landscape so that habitats and wildlife populations are restored, and people's livelihoods are improved.

DNR e.V. (Wir Haben Es Satt) Germany

USD 331,522 (3 years)

To support an environment that works for a food system that is good for the planet and its people in Germany and at the EU level.

Environmental Defense Fund Inc

USD 750,000 (2 years)

To promote sustainable rural development with renewable growth, and strengthen ocean protection and governance.

Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide

USD 200,000 (2 years)

To help develop a regional environmental rights framework within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations that allows civil society to have access to information and public participation.

European Federation for Transport and Environment

USD 2,250,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to European Federation for Transport and Environment to make Europe the first continent to fully transition to clean transport.

Fairshare Educational Foundation dba ShareAction

USD 2,250,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to ShareAction, a charity that works to create a financial system that serves our planet and its people.

Fauna & Flora International

USD 949,499 (3 years)

To support fairer, more sustainable, and transparent agreements that can support local fishing communities in Africa.

Fiscalia del Medio Ambiente

USD 350,000 (2 years)

To carry out research to develop innovative technologies that promote sustainable fishing practices and protect marine ecosystems.

Frankfurt Zoological Society - US (FZS)

USD 200,000 (2 years)

To support FZS to manage conservation programmes in Africa, Australia, Asia, and Latin America.

Frankfurt Zoological Society - US (FZS)

USD 2,784,999 (3 years)

To expand FZS's conservation work in the Gonarezhou Conservation Trust in Zimbabwe, safeguarding biodiversity and ecosystems while identifying opportunities for local communities to build a secure future.

Give2Asia

USD 400,000 (2 years)

To provide core support to Give2Asia, for its work to help improve e-commerce's environmental footprint and accountability.

Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA)

USD 2,425,000 (5 years)

To provide core support to GAIA to catalyse a global shift towards a healthier and more sustainable environment.

Global Feedback

USD 715,000 (3 years)

To encourage companies in Europe to be more responsible for promoting healthy, sustainable, and fair diets, and their impacts on other regions of the world.

Instituto Clima e Sociedade

USD 6,000,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to Instituto Clima e Sociedade, which is a Brazilian philanthropic organisation that supports projects and institutions dedicated to ensuring a sustainable and thriving planet.

Instituto Incube

USD 400,000 (2 years)

To provide core support to the Brazilian Center for Climate Justice during their start-up phase.

Meliore

USD 750,000 (1 year)

To strengthen the climate movement to build a better future for our children and ensure a sustainable and thriving planet for generations to come.



Captions

Page 12 and 13.3: participants at the Effective Conservation Training Initiative, a field-based two-week-long training initiative for potential team leaders working in conservation.

Page 13.1 and 13.2: The Malipati Agri-hub in the south of the Gonarezhou National Park supports innovative solutions for enhanced food security and climate resilience, and supports the restoration of degraded agricultural land, rivers, and wetlands.

Page 14: Members of the Mu-uyu Baobab Women's Agroecological community garden.

Meliore

USD 2,000,000 (3 years)

To support the work of Meliore, allowing it to increase its capacity and impact.

Meridian Institute

USD 570,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to the Global Alliance for the Future of Food and the Small-Scale Fisheries Funders Network to help create healthy, sustainable, and just food systems.

New Society Communications

USD 100,000 (1 year)

To educate and empower millions of mothers, and all those that care about climate and the future of children.

Oceano Azul Foundation

USD 326,087 (2 years)

To harness the potential of RISE UP to create a unifying voice for the ocean, driving momentum in regions around the world.

Orange River Karoo Conservation Area

USD 300,000 (2 years)

To establish a wildlife conservancy for the benefit of both people and wildlife in Namibia.

Pacific Environment and Resources Center

USD 1,000,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to Pacific Environment, which works to protect Pacific Rim communities and wildlife.

PAMS Foundation

USD 500,000 (3 years)

To support and scale forest conservation and sustainable livelihoods in Tanzania's Eastern Arc Mountains.

Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM) Zimbabwe

USD 440,000 (3 years)

To help restore degraded landscapes in Zimbabwe through a network of rural communities that practice holistic livestock grazing.

Power Shift Africa

USD 1,000,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to Power Shift Africa, which works to strengthen climate resilience in Africa.

Purpose Campaigns LLC

USD 1,000,000 (3 years)

To increase public awareness in India of the benefits of ensuring a sustainable and thriving planet.

Right Livelihood Award Foundation

USD 100,000 (1 year)

To honour Africa Institute for Energy Governance as a Right Livelihood 2022 Laureate.

Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI)

USD 800,000 (2 years)

To provide core support to RMI for its work to reduce emissions and strengthen people-centred climate solutions.

SAVE Wildlife Conservation Fund

USD 309,987 (2 years)

To support wildlife conservation and community development interventions in the Ngamiland district 35 of Botswana.

Social Change Nest CIC (The)

USD 4,500,000 (3 years)

To support Healthy Food Healthy Planet, a civil society-led initiative fostering collaboration across sectors, issues, and actors for healthy, just, and sustainable food systems in Europe.

Soils, Food and Healthy Communities (SFHC)

USD 450,000 (3 years)

To support SFHC in promoting sustainable agriculture and restoring landscapes in Malawi, benefiting over 10,000 smallholder farmers and enhancing food security and biodiversity.

Stichting High Seas Alliance

USD 200,000 (2 years)

To provide support to the High Seas Alliance, which works to conserve oceans in areas of the high seas and the seabed area beyond countries' national jurisdiction.

Stichting Rewilding Europe

USD 1,000,000 (2 years)

To provide core funding to rewild diverse European landscapes, and inspire and enable others to engage in rewilding by providing tools and practical expertise.

Sustainable Agricultural Technology (SATWILD)

USD 450,000 (3 years)

To support SATWILD in its efforts to restore degraded agricultural land and water catchments and further develop its Agri-Hub.

Sustainable Markets Foundation

USD 700,000 (3 years)

To enable the Global Gas and Oil Network secretariat to continue its work to find global alternatives to fossil fuels, ensuring global temperature rises remain within 1.5°C of pre-industrial levels.

Swiss Philanthropy Foundation

USD 600,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to improve food and nutrition security outcomes for coastal communities in India.

Time + Tide Foundation

USD 1,451,000 (4 years)

To provide core support for activities that strengthen civil society's work in rural conservation areas in Zambia and Madagascar through inclusive learning environments and new economic pathways for those furthest from opportunity.

TINTA - The Invisible Thread

USD 600,000 (4 years)

To strengthen small-scale fisheries and their networks and improve their global efforts.

Transforming Rural India Foundation

USD 299,487 (3 years)

To provide core support to scale up agri-photovoltaic solutions for farmers in India.

West Lunga Conservation project

USD 750,000 (2 years)

To restore, rehabilitate, and effectively manage the West Lunga Ecosystem in partnership with government, local communities, and Traditional Leaders.

Wildlife Conservation Action (WCA)

USD 550,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to WCA for its work to promote biodiversity conservation and community livelihoods in the Zambezi valley, Africa.

Wildlife Conservation Network

USD 1,500,000 (2 years)

To safeguard rhinos and their landscapes in Africa and Asia, helping the species to improve their health, and benefit people living alongside them through the Rhino Recovery Fund.

Wildlife Crime Prevention Project Limited

USD 900,000 (3 years)

To contribute towards building inclusive and resilient wildlife economies.

World Resources Institute

USD 750,000 (3 years)

To minimise environmental impacts, with a focus on eliminating plastic pollution.

World Resources Institute

USD 400,000 (2 years)

To support food systems that are healthier, fairer, and more sustainable in Europe.

Housing and Homelessness



Supporting organisations to end homelessness and create housing opportunity

A home is the foundation for a decent life. If we are to help create a safer, fairer, and more sustainable world, we need to ensure that more people can access housing opportunity. Oak's Housing and Homelessness Programme supports organisations in the United States and United Kingdom to do just that.

The programme supports organisations across three priority themes:

- reducing and preventing homelessness;
- strengthening renter rights; and
- boosting supply and access to genuinely affordable and decent homes.

In this year's annual report, we profile the work of just some of our partners in Boston, one of three focus cities in the US for our programme. Boston, and the wider Commonwealth of Massachusetts, have taken significant steps in recent years to expand housing opportunities.

In 2024, the Housing and Homelessness Programme welcomed a new director, Brian Robson. Brian and the team continue to embed the programme's established grant-making strategy.

Creating housing opportunity in Massachusetts

Aldina came to the United States in 2002 from Cape Verde. Six years ago, high medical bills following a prolonged period of hospitalisation meant she could no longer afford her rent. She became homeless.

Boston's Pine Street Inn is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to end homelessness by making permanent housing a reality for all. Aldina reached out to the team at Pine Street Inn for help. The team provided her with immediate assistance and she was able to stay in Pine Street Inn's Yawkey House emergency shelter. Her case manager then helped her to find an apartment in one of Pine Street Inn's residences. "It's a wonderful community and everyone here is like family," says Aldina.

In recent years, as Pine Street Inn has focused on increasing its supply of permanent supportive housing, while decreasing the number of people reliant on emergency shelters, many shelter residents have been able to move to an apartment. Pine Street Inn now owns or operates over 1,000 apartments for people who've moved on from homelessness.

“

"A home is the answer to homelessness," says Pine Street Inn president and executive director Lyndia Downie. "That's why we continue to move forward on new housing."

It's a move that's worked well for Aldina. "I've been in my new apartment for three years, and I love it," she says. "There are many Cape Verdeans in the neighbourhood, which makes me feel at home. It's quiet and peaceful here, and I've made a lot of friends in the building." With over half of all renters in Boston considered to be 'cost burdened' by their rent, Aldina was far from alone when she faced challenges paying the rent on her previous apartment.

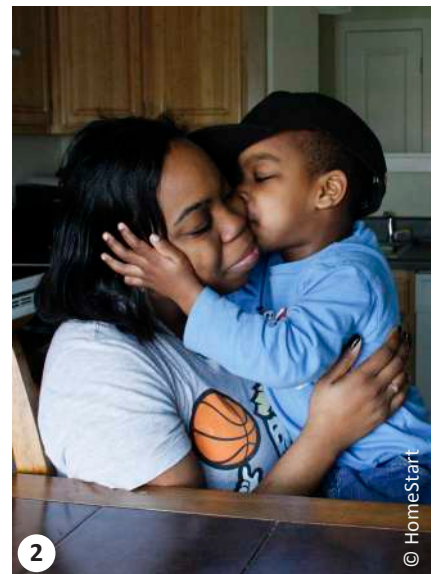
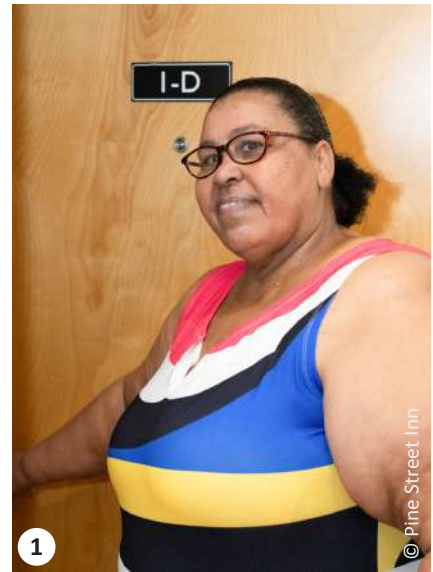
That's where HomeStart's eviction prevention programme comes in. It works one-on-one with low-income families on the brink of homelessness, intervening to help them stay in their homes and avoid the trauma of homelessness. Had Aldina known about HomeStart's work, it is possible that she would never have been made homeless in the first place. HomeStart provides financial assistance and case management support. It negotiates directly with property owners on behalf of tenants and accompanies tenants to the housing court, helping to work out agreements to stop evictions and preserve tenancies.

When an agreement has been reached, HomeStart makes a payment directly to the property owner towards the back rent owed. This is intended as a goodwill offering to generate confidence from the landlord and stop the eviction process. Then the tenant will typically repay the balance to the landlord within 8-12 months.

The programme is very cost-effective. While it costs the state USD 30,000 to provide a homeless family with emergency shelter accommodation or a motel for one year, HomeStart can typically preserve a tenancy for around USD 2,000 per household. This is also lower than the cost to landlords to evict a tenant, and has led to private and public landlords partnering with HomeStart to enable the organisation to work with their tenants.

"Our mission is to help neighbours experiencing homelessness or housing instability to regain and maintain a stable home – a safe, affordable place to live connected to a community of support," says HomeStart president and executive director Matt Pritchard. "We all want the opportunity to thrive, plan for the future, and position our children and families for success in their own lives. A home is the first step to get us there."

The team at Citizens' Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA) in Massachusetts shares that view.



Captions

Page 17 and 21: City Life/Vida Urbana is a grassroots community organisation in Boston.

Page 19: The team at Citizens' Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA), which works to ensure that there are more affordable homes for people on low and moderate incomes in Massachusetts.

Above 1: Boston's Pine Street Inn supports many people to move beyond homelessness, such as Aldina, the tenant above, enjoying her new home. Aldina loves the home she found with the Pine Street Inn's assistance.

Above 2: HomeStart's eviction prevention programme works with low-income families on the brink of homelessness to help them stay in their homes and avoid the trauma of homelessness.



Born from a small group of community leaders who understood that housing was a critical issue of the civil rights movement in 1967, CHAPA has worked to boost the supply and preservation of housing ever since it was founded. It promotes more affordable homes for people on low and moderate incomes in Massachusetts on the local, state, and federal levels.

Affordable Homes Act

In 2024, the Massachusetts Affordable Homes Act was signed into law. This landmark bill provides for a USD 5.1 billion investment and includes a wide range of policies to support the preservation and creation of tens of thousands of homes.

The bill will enable investments in state public housing and in supportive housing. It also authorises a social housing pilot scheme, which will

boost the supply of apartments like the one Aldina was able to move into.

“These policies will help move us closer to a Commonwealth where people can have safe, healthy, affordable homes in the communities they choose. This is more than a housing plan, it’s a statement of values.” says CHAPA chief executive officer Rachel Heller.

The bill also includes measures to seal evictions records, making it easier for organisations like HomeStart to support renters who have had a history of eviction. Finally, the bill includes changes to planning regulations, which will make it faster

and simpler to build additional homes. “Boston’s Pine Street Inn, HomeStart, and CHAPA play key roles in the collective response to Boston’s housing crisis,” says Brian Robson, director of Oak’s Housing and Homelessness Programme. “Their work is helping more people live in decent homes and ensure fewer people experience homelessness and housing insecurity. It is aligned with our own work to increase supply and access to affordable housing, strengthen renter rights, and prevent homelessness.”

If you want to find out more about our Housing and Homelessness Programme and its partners, please check out our website.

Grants

Action Center on Race and the Economy Institute (ACRE) USD 600,000 (3 years)

To support ACRE in its work to pursue its 2024-2026 housing strategy.

Asylum Support Appeals Project USD 443,038 (4 years)

To ensure that people seeking asylum in the UK have access to food and shelter, thereby reducing and preventing homelessness.

Birmingham Diocesan Board of Finance (The) USD 2,158,181 (3 years)

To support the new Church Development Agency in its work to create affordable housing in Birmingham.

Bristol Refugee Rights USD 450,000 (3 years)

To provide advice and support to people seeking asylum in Bristol, the UK, so they can secure appropriate and safe accommodation.

Broad Street Ministry USD 650,000 (5 years)

To support Broad Street Ministry in its work to provide services to people who are experiencing homeless or insecurely housed in Philadelphia, the US.

Central England Law Centre USD 1,265,823 (5 years)

To provide core support to the Central England Law Centre, which supports people experiencing homelessness in Birmingham by offering free specialist legal advice and representation.

Centre for Progressive Change (The) USD 100,000 (1 year)

To support efforts to carry out research that will form the basis of a housing campaign that will support people in need to have a genuinely affordable home in the UK.

Community Foundation for Northern Ireland (The) USD 1,600,000 (5 years)

To help voluntary and community organisations in Northern Ireland provide assistance to people in need of stable housing.

Crisis - UK USD 2,025,000 (5 years)

To provide core support to Crisis for its efforts across Great Britain to solve homelessness, deliver services that end homelessness for people and places, and build a community of people supporting this work.

Cymorth Cymru USD 552,406 (5 years)

To provide core support to Cymorth Cymru, in Wales, to respond to and reduce homelessness.

Debt Justice USD 300,000 (3 years)

To scale up the collective power of people with lived experience to end household debt and reduce the housing crisis in the UK.

Fair Housing Justice Center Inc. USD 600,000 (3 years)

To ensure fair housing for all in New York.

Family Promise Inc. USD 1,100,000 (4 years)

To expand Family Promise's housing programmes to serve more families with children.

FJC | A Foundation of Philanthropic Funds USD 600,000 (3 years)

To support the NYC Fund to End Youth & Family Homelessness, a collaborative initiative transforming NYC's housing and homelessness systems by working with experts, government, and people with lived experience.

Highlife Centre (The) USD 94,842 (2 years)

To develop a conceptual and feasibility framework for a 'live-learn-work' facility for young people experiencing homelessness in Coventry.

Horn of Africa People's Aid Northern Ireland USD 100,000 (2 years)

To support a pilot innovative housing project for refugees from the Horn of Africa and beyond, involving community engagement and sustainable and affordable refugee accommodation.

Housing Rights Initiative USD 500,000 (5 years)

To preserve and protect affordable housing and improve the quality of life for families in New York City.

Impact Accelerator Ltd dba Breakthrough Impact USD 100,000 (1 year)

To support people with direct experience of housing insecurity or homelessness in their work to secure greater supply of safe, affordable housing in the UK.

Inclusion London USD 924,051 (4 years)

To improve access to affordable, accessible housing in London, the UK, by building the capacity of Deaf and Disabled People's Organisations (DDPOs) to carry out effective housing campaigns for people with disabilities.

Inquest Charitable Trust USD 690,603 (4 years)

To provide support to bereaved families, survivors, and the wider Grenfell community in collaboration with a variety of groups working towards meaningful, long-lasting change.

Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción USD 400,000 (4 years)

To provide core support to Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción, an organisation based in Boston, the US, that provides social housing and holistic support to low- and moderate-income individuals and families in Boston.

Justlife Foundation USD 3,588,697 (5 years)

To minimise the use of Temporary Accommodation (TA) across the UK, so stays in TA are only used as a safety net, and are short, safe, and healthy.

Law Centre NI USD 1,100,000 (5 years)

To support people in Northern Ireland living in or at risk of homelessness as a result of their insecure and sometimes complex immigration status.

Lawyers Clearinghouse on Affordable Housing and Homelessness USD 400,000 (4 years)

To provide core support to the Lawyers Clearinghouse on Affordable Housing and Homelessness to increase housing stability across Massachusetts, the US.

Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition USD 100,000 (1 year)

To improve access to housing and prevent homelessness across Massachusetts and the US.

Museum of Homelessness USD 245,570 (4 years)

To provide core support to the Museum of Homelessness, based in the UK.

National Housing Institute dba ShelterForce USD 800,000 (5 years)

To provide core support to ShelterForce, a US-based organisation that works to ensure that every person has a place to call home.

National Housing Law Project USD 2,000,000 (5 years)

To provide core support to the National Housing Law Project, which works to improve tenants' rights, and preserve and increase the supply of affordable homes.

Neighbors Together USD 900,000 (4 years)

To foster a resilient Brooklyn by promoting stable housing and affordable living, ensuring access to safe housing and nutritious food.



**New Economy Organisers Network
USD 600,000 (3 years)**

To support housing movements in the UK by strengthening their capacity to prioritise human needs through support and training.

**New Economy Project
USD 600,000 (4 years)**

To support the New Economy Project in expanding permanently affordable, community-controlled housing in New York City.

**New York Communities for Change Inc.
USD 550,000 (3 years)**

To support New York Communities for Change in advancing the interests of low-income tenants and achieving affordable, climate-friendly housing statewide by defending and expanding tenant protections.

**New York Foundation
USD 1,031,689 (3 years)**

To support the Neighborhoods First Fund, a funder collaborative administered by the New York Foundation that seeks to strengthen community-based organisations to participate in neighborhood planning, land use, housing, and community development decisions in New York.

**Pavement (The)
USD 94,937 (2 years)**

To provide support to the UK-based Pavement magazine for its efforts to reach people experiencing homelessness or vulnerably housed, by providing sources of support, advice, and shelter through a detailed directory of services.

**Pennsylvania Community Real Estate dba Tenant Union Representative Network (TURN)
USD 750,000 (3 years)**

To provide core support to TURN, an organisation based in Philadelphia, US, which supports tenants and ensures they have secure and fair housing.

**People's Action Institute
USD 1,250,000 (5 years)**

To support People's Action Institute to work with low- and moderate-income renters and people experiencing homelessness in the US to access affordable and secure rental homes and housing and support services.

**Public Advocates Inc.
USD 1,000,000 (4 years)**

To support opportunities for more affordable housing in the United States.

**Race on the Agenda Resource for London
USD 100,000 (18 months)**

To establish the infrastructure for a community-led housing research project, and support efforts to improve housing in London.

**Release
USD 632,087 (4 years)**

To support research aimed at understanding and addressing the housing challenges faced by people who are homeless and using drugs in the UK.

**Shared Assets
USD 225,000 (2 years)**

To provide technical assistance and data that will build the capacity of housing groups in the UK to create tangible improvements in their local areas.

**South of Scotland Community Housing
USD 191,842 (3 years)**

To support efforts to promote community-led housing for those in need of affordable housing in rural and urban communities across southern Scotland.

**St Basils
USD 1,528,861 (3 years)**

To provide core support to help young people in the West Midlands, UK, find and keep a home, grow their confidence, and develop their skills, thereby reducing youth homelessness.

**Standing Tall
USD 100,000 (1 year)**

To scale up the work of Standing Tall, a UK-based charity that finds homes and jobs in the community for people experiencing homelessness in the UK.

**Swiss Philanthropy Foundation
USD 250,000 (1 year)**

To provide support to HHP partner organisations working in the UK refugee and migrant sector.

**Urban Justice Center
USD 500,000 (4 years)**

To support the Safety Net Project in ending the criminalisation of homelessness and working towards access to housing and shelter for all in New York City by scaling up community organising efforts.

**Women Acting In Today's Society (WAITS)
USD 424,996 (3 years)**

To support WAITS in helping women experiencing homelessness due to domestic abuse find housing.

**Zacchaeus 2000 Trust (Z2K)
USD 607,595 (3 years)**

To provide core support to Z2K in its efforts to assist people in London, UK, with social security and housing issues through its legal advice centre.

International Human Rights



Protecting and promoting the human rights of all people

With 15 million stateless people globally, and tens of millions at risk of statelessness, the issue has become one of the most neglected and harmful human rights challenges of our day.

Trapped in cycles of arbitrary detention and denied the right to nationality, stateless people are routinely deprived of education, healthcare, employment, freedom of movement, political participation, and access to justice. The Covid-19 pandemic compounded these negative trends, making more urgent than ever the need for high-impact, coordinated global action.

This is why some of Oak's partners are working to support the development of innovative new networks to drive systemic change, putting people impacted by statelessness at the heart of initiatives for reform, legal action, and societal transformation.

Building on the proven track record of established partners in Europe and Asia, our partners are investing in the next generation of statelessness networks. These groups are giving unprecedented profile to the voices and lived experience of impacted people themselves, bringing them together in inclusive communities as architects of local solutions, aligned with networks that share good practice, ultimately creating a global alliance that is greater than the sum of its parts. Read about their great work on the following pages.

Experience-driven change: empowering the unheard

Neha Gurung was born stateless but didn't know it. It was not until her final year in high school that she learned a truth that would change her life irrevocably.

"The form I had to fill in to sit public exams asked for my father's name," she says. "I didn't know it as he'd abandoned our family years before." All government forms in Nepal, including those for nationality, require a father's name. "The world saw me differently; a nobody," says Neha. "I was confused and humiliated. Most significantly, I had no nationality."

Neha and her mother, Deepti, embarked on a personal crusade that would make legal history. Indeed, their lives are living testimonies to the transformative power of people who become champions of their own cause.

First, they launched a Facebook campaign that grew into a nationwide grassroots movement. Then, in 2014, they founded the Citizenship Affected People's Network – Nepal (CAPN), successfully petitioning the Supreme Court and changing the constitution so that nationality could be inherited from either parent.

In addition, the Global Statelessness Fund (GSF) was founded in 2024 to help groups impacted by statelessness. It partnered early on with Deepti and Neha to support their work. Nonetheless, Nepal remains one of almost 50 countries globally that does not grant full citizenship rights to women on a par with men, in the face of which CAPN's work continues.

Innovation on solid foundations

The Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI) is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to promoting the right to a nationality and the rights of stateless people globally. Co-founded by Amal Chickera, the ISI seeks to approach statelessness through the lens of human rights, which is different to many larger not-for-profit organisations and the UNHCR, which see it through the lens of refugee protection. "Stateless

people needed to be at the centre of the agenda," says Amal.

The organisation worked with donor allies, stateless partners, and other like-minded not-for-profit organisations to establish the Global Statelessness Fund (GSF), which channels resources, accompaniment, and peer learning support to stateless activists and impacted-person-led organisations.

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"We wanted to shift the balance of power towards stateless people, by giving them a greater say in the allocation of their resources through unrestricted funding," says Amal Chickera, co-founder of ISI.

Within a matter of months, the GSF was providing support to a first cohort of 21 mainly 'hard to reach' groups. For example, people who don't have a bank account, or are unregistered and work under constant threat.

Central to this work is GSF's Accompaniment Programme,¹ which offers mentorship support to grantees² to strengthen their organisational development and encourage creative thinking. ISI seeks to find local solutions and works to empower communities. In addition, "international networking, sharing good practice and strategic vision boosts morale and motivation, which can hugely amplify impact," says Amal.

Bridging the knowledge gap and building communities

GSF's partner Statefree is small, agile, and delivers a unique service. It was founded in 2021 by Christiana Bukalo following a traumatic personal experience.

"Born stateless in Germany, to West African parents, I had no passport for years, and only eventually received a travel document," she says.





"In 2019, I wanted to visit Morocco, but upon arriving, my travel papers were refused. Three security officers interrogated me extensively and after a 20-hour wait, I was put on a random flight back to Düsseldorf."

Back in Germany, Christiana looked for an organisation that could advise her. "But there was not a single group exclusively supporting the country's 126,000 stateless population," she says, "and those groups that did had no members who were themselves stateless, and lacked the necessary lived experience to truly understand the issues." So, the idea of Statefree was born.

Today, it has 200 registered members and its work is threefold. First, it aims to build community focus through in-person and online forums, transforming the way stateless people think about themselves and the way the world perceives them. Second, it seeks to raise visibility about this issue, so that the community itself and the broader public understands what statelessness means. The third focus is equal rights, about which Statefree has submitted four substantial comments demanding legal equality to the German Parliament.

A legacy of success

Christiana also sits on the board of trustees of the European Network on Statelessness (ENS). Founded in 2012, it has grown from six people to an organisation with 180 members from 41 countries today.

"When we started, there were only a handful of organisations working on statelessness," says ENS director and co-founder Chris Nash. "This meant

that the issue was hidden, easier for governments to ignore, adding to the marginalisation of stateless people." More than a decade on, that has changed, with statelessness much higher up national and regional policy agendas, which is having a lasting legacy. ENS has created a diverse and dynamic regional movement, accountable to the communities it serves.

“

"I dream of a world free of statelessness, free of exclusive nationality laws," says Neha Gurung, advocate against statelessness.

In June 2023, ENS hosted a conference in Madrid³ that was catalytic in putting lived experience front and centre, and bringing together stateless changemakers alongside high-level policy makers from the UN, EU, the Council of Europe, and the Spanish Government. It led to the reform of the EU Migration and Asylum Pact, mainstreaming the protection of stateless people's rights in EU asylum systems.

ENS's Statelessness Index⁴ assesses how countries in Europe protect stateless people and what they are doing to prevent statelessness. Its Statelessness Case Law Database promotes change through the courts, alongside pan-European campaigns, including *#StatelessJourneys*, *#LockedInLimbo*, and *#StatelessKids*. It publishes research, convenes regional conferences, and holds roundtables in the European Parliament.

Some of the world's largest displaced populations, such as the 1.2 million Rohingya refugees from Myanmar now living in Bangladesh,⁵ are in Asia. Our partners include the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN), a strategic partner of 13 years, comprising over 300 civil society organisations and members in 29 countries.

APRRN co-secretary General Hafsar Tameesuddin is a Rohingya who fled Myanmar in 2009. APRRN runs a five-year training programme for refugee women-led organisations, including stateless women, some of whom have survived sexual and gender-based violence. She says, "Seeing women making the journey from sexual and gender-based violence, to leaders of networks advocating for their own communities against a background of such deep trauma is truly inspirational."

Like Hafsar, Neha Gurung looks to the future with realism and optimism, when she says, "I dream of a world free of statelessness, free of exclusive nationality laws." Neha believes that it starts with centring the voices, experiences, needs, and expertise of stateless people themselves. Instead of words like 'disempowered', 'non-existent', and 'invisible', she thinks that stateless people should have their own narrative, as resilient experts capable of transforming their own lives and those of others – "individuals whose rights and dignity are universally recognised".

Check out our website to find out more about our partners who are working to make statelessness a thing of the past.

References: Please see page 66 of this report.

Grants

Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team

USD 1,000,000 (2 years)

To apply forensic sciences, especially anthropology, archaeology, medicine, and genetics, to the investigations of human rights violations in Latin America, Africa, Europe, and the Middle East.

ARTICLE 19 Inc.

USD 250,000 (2 years)

To support Team COMMUNITY, hosted at ARTICLE 19 Inc., to foster and nurture healthy, resilient, and inclusive communities of digital rights networks across the globe.

Asia Justice and Rights

USD 600,000 (3 years)

To assist in promoting positive change in Myanmar by meaningfully engaging with the Rohingya and other minority nationalities.

Association of the Bar of the City of New York Fund Inc.

USD 1,050,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to the Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice at the Association of the Bar of the City of New York Fund in its mission to defend and protect independent public interest reporting organisations worldwide through legal advice and representation.

Baring Foundation (The)

USD 2,531,646 (4 years)

To support LGBTQI communities across Africa, the Caribbean, and Pacific Islands through a multi-stakeholder re-granting mechanism.

Bureau of Investigative Journalism (The)

USD 250,000 (1 year)

To investigate and share stories that can support people's ability to make decisions based on accurate information, ultimately supporting the wellbeing and progress of communities worldwide.

Burmese Rohingya Organisation - UK

USD 250,000 (3 years)

To provide core funding to support the organisation to strengthen its cooperation with the wider democracy movement in Myanmar to work for common goals of human rights and a federal democratic system.

Conscious Advertising Network (CAN)

USD 569,620 (3 years)

To provide core support to CAN, an international not-for-profit member organisation that seeks to ensure that advertising works for everyone.

European Coalition for Corporate Justice

USD 489,130 (3 years)

To seek the establishment of a robust corporate accountability framework in the EU.

European Implementation Network

USD 244,565 (3 years)

To provide core support to strengthen the system of implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights.

Fair Trials Europe

USD 569,620 (3 years)

To provide core support to Fair Trials in its mission to promote fairness, transparency, and accountability in criminal justice systems.

Freedom from Torture

USD 1,050,806 (18 months)

To provide core support to Freedom from Torture, which provides specialist trauma-focused therapy to asylum seekers and refugees who have survived torture, helping them recover and rebuild their lives in the UK.

Friends of the Earth Europe

USD 652,174 (3 years)

To support efforts that can lead to a peaceful and sustainable world.

Global Impact

USD 600,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to Global Impact for Digital Action to support a healthy digital information sphere.

Global Rights Compliance

USD 249,919 (1 year)

To support an investigation into the alleged criminal use of starvation of civilians during the Syrian conflict, in collaboration with Huquqyat, a women-led Syrian civil society organisation that works on legal investigations in relation to international core crimes in the Syrian context.

Goldsmiths, University of London

USD 759,494 (3 years)

To provide core support to Forensic Architecture, a research agency based at Goldsmiths, to develop innovative methodologies for digital research and storytelling that are aimed at promoting accountability.

Human Rights Law Resource Centre Ltd

USD 605,692 (3 years)

To empower communities and workers to achieve justice and uphold their rights through meaningful actions and remedies.

ILGA World

USD 681,818 (3 years)

To provide core support to ILGA World, a global, membership-based organisation that works to protect and advance the human rights of LGBTQI people worldwide.

Instituto Vladimir Herzog

USD 100,000 (4 months)

To empower civil society and ensure a thriving democracy in Brazil by supporting a cultural exhibition marking the 60th anniversary of the military coup.

International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

USD 1,467,391 (2 years)

To provide core support to strengthen the FIDH, contribute to its structural and organisational transformation, and promote the consistent application of international law worldwide.

International Journalism Defense Inc. - Reporters Shield

USD 4,500,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to Reporters Shield, a global legal defense fund for media outlets and not-for-profit organisations that report in the public interest.

INTRAC

USD 250,000 (1 year)

To test and validate a Human Rights Impact Mapping Tool, which aims to help individual human rights organisations better meet the challenges of a changing world.

Meliore

USD 500,000 (2 years)

To foster a healthy digital sphere.

Mnemonic

USD 815,217 (3 years)

To provide core support for efforts aimed at the preservation, enhancement, and memorialisation of open-source evidence of human rights violations in various contexts.

Network of European Foundations

USD 1,706,522 (3 years)

To provide core support to Civitates, a philanthropic fund hosted by the Network of European Foundations (Brussels).

Open Collective Europe Foundation

USD 2,000,000 (3 years)

To provide funding and accompaniment support to stateless-led groups to increase their agency, independence, and capacity via the Global Statelessness Fund.

Parliamentarians for Global Action

USD 575,000 (2 years)

To strengthen the capacity of Parliamentarians for Global Action.



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People in Need

USD 250,000 (1 year)

To create a robust safety net that supports human rights defenders, civic activists, and journalists.

Protection International

USD 1,186,957 (3 years)

To build an enabling environment for human rights defenders in Asia, Africa, and Latin America by ensuring they have systems in place to keep them safe.

Robert F Kennedy Memorial-Centre for Human Rights

USD 1,230,000 (3 years)

To provide support to defenders and partners in Asia through the expansion of RFK's international programmes in that region.

SITU Studio

USD 1,000,000 (3 years)

To broaden the toolkit of visual investigation techniques available to human rights investigation.

Stanford University

USD 665,000 (2 years)

To support resilient digital ecosystems through open-source innovations and evidence-based solutions, and to promote a healthy digital sphere.

Swiss Philanthropy Foundation

USD 448,398 (1 year)

To support organisations working on migration and space for civic engagement issues in Europe.

Unitarian Universalist Association

USD 126,000 (1 year)

To provide support to the Unitarian Universalist Association's Holdeen India programme which works to make people in India prosperous, including in the areas of education, livelihood development, and humanitarian relief.

Voices Project (The)

USD 1,217,391 (3 years)

To provide core support to The Voices Project for its work on accountability and justice.

Who Targets Me

USD 100,000 (1 year)

To provide core support to Who Targets Me, which is committed to empowering communities with insights and tools to understand and engage with the digital landscape.



Captions:

Page 22: The 2024 World Conference on Statelessness was held in February 2024 at Taylor's University in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Organised by the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (ISI), Nationality for All (NFA) and Development of Human Resources for Rural Areas (DHRRA) Malaysia, the conference brought together more than 400 participants with lived and learned experience of statelessness to exchange knowledge, perspectives, ideas, and skills.

Page 23.1: Deepti Gurung speaks at the 2024 World Conference on Statelessness.

Page 23.2: Christiana Bukalo speaks at the 2024 World Conference on Statelessness.

Page 23.3: Hafsar Tameesuddin speaks at the 2024 World Conference on Statelessness.

Page 24: The Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN) comprises more than 300 not-for-profit organisations and members in 29 countries. Its co-secretary General Hafsar Tameesuddin is a Rohingya who fled Myanmar in 2009. The Rohingya are a Muslim ethnic minority from Myanmar, with many displaced to Bangladesh and Southeast Asia. They have been denied Myanmar citizenship since 1982, making them the world's largest stateless population.

Above: Chris Nash speaks with (from left to right) Christiana Bukalo, founder of Statefree; Jim Clarken, chair of the management board, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights; Gillian Triggs, assistant secretary-general, High Commissioner for Protection UNHCR; Aleksandra Semerik Gavrilenok, individual member of the European Network on Statelessness, and a formerly stateless person.

Issues Affecting Women



Supporting vibrant movements led by women that are transforming lives and communities

Oak's Issues Affecting Women Programme envisions a world where women and girls are safe, free, and have an equal chance to thrive. Women everywhere deserve to lead lives with safety and dignity. Achieving this requires a wide array of long-term efforts. To this end, we resource and support different groups: women's funds, women's organisations, networks, emerging collaboratives, and grassroots groups. We also support multiple strategies: survivor and victim services, norm and systems change, movement strengthening, communications, organisational capacity strengthening, and collaboration. We prioritise providing core and long-term funding to these organisations to create positive and lasting change.

In this year's annual report, we are showcasing two partners that work to find solutions for economic abuse: the US-based FreeFrom, which is building an ecosystem of support to ensure that survivors have the resources to get safe, heal, and prevent future harm; and the UK-based Surviving Economic Abuse, which seeks to raise awareness of, and transform responses to economic abuse. Their work is wide-ranging, from supporting survivors of violence to access cash for urgent needs, to working with the banks and finance sector to offer them direct services, and in general, helping them to rebuild their lives.

Please read on to find out how they are creating positive change for survivors and bringing others along on this journey.

Survivor-led strategies for tackling economic abuse

When Lindsay Fishcher left college, she had a bright future ahead of her. She had a job she loved, a house, and a car. Things were going well. When she met someone who was the man of her dreams, she thought things couldn't get better.

Their relationship started out well. After a few months, he encouraged her to give up her teaching career and to focus on her second passion, which was writing. He hired her in his own company, so she became both his partner and his employee. Not long afterwards, Lindsay's partner began to try to alienate her from her friends and family, and, as her employer, he had financial control over her. He became abusive and eventually, after he threatened to kill her and threw her down the stairs, she left him in fear of her life.

Traumatised by her experiences, Lindsay went back to her own house. There she faced more challenges: the electricity had been cut off, her car was repossessed three days later, and within a week, her house went into foreclosure proceedings. In the space of her 18-month relationship, everything had changed – she had no transport, and was in debt and in danger of becoming homeless, with no source of income. Things looked grim. But Lindsay was a fighter and, desperate to improve her situation, she threw herself back into work. After six months, she got a full-time job teaching, and slowly she was able to rebuild her life. Eventually she saw a therapist who helped her deal with her trauma. “There is no shame in asking for help,” says Lindsay, “There is life after abuse, it goes on.”

As Lindsay experienced, economic abuse is where partners or ex-partners control survivors' money and limit their access to resources. They deliberately make survivors economically dependent, which limits their ability to leave or stay safe once they have left.

Oak supports not-for-profit organisations working in the field of economic abuse, so that women who have gone through circumstances

similar to those Lindsay experienced can get the help they need. We feature two of our partners here.

FreeFrom

A US-based organisation that creates routes to financial, long-term safety for survivors of economic abuse, FreeFrom is a survivor-led organisation with a network of more than 30,000 people. It is guided by a belief in community-based support, where survivors can find safety all of the time, rather than just at the most visible 'crisis' moments.

According to founder and CEO Sonya Passi, being survivor-led means operating from “a basic ethos that survivors know best what we need”. Not only does this mean that 83 per cent of FreeFrom's staff are survivors, it means that FreeFrom undertakes participatory action research to meet survivors' needs. So far, the organisation has produced several reports on data collected from nearly 7,000 survivors.

One of these reports, *Support Every Survivor*, asked survivors to rank what they needed most. It found that cash assistance was the number one answer, with credit and debt relief second. Only 1.7 per cent of respondents said they needed a shelter. “On average, survivors have zero dollars in savings,” says Sonya. “Yet shelters are the main offering the government has for survivors.”

“

“Funding allowed me to pay for needed expenses without reaching out to my harm-doer for financial support,” says one survivor who received a Safety Fund grant. “That alone is an indescribable gift. It was also a huge help to my mental health.”

Through its Safety Fund cash assistance programme, FreeFrom has disbursed over USD 2.2 million



in more than 8,800 emergency cash grants directly to survivors. It has supported about 2,000 survivors to save more than USD 823,000 through its national Savings Match Programme.

FreeFrom has produced a National Survivor Financial Security Policy Map And Scorecard, which catalogues how well state laws protect survivors' financial security. It shows where the legislative gaps are. “Since we launched that scorecard, there have

BOUNDLESS POSSIBILITIES START



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been over 600 bills introduced across all 50 states to support survivors' financial security," says Sonya. "These are laws that say you can't be fired, or evicted, for experiencing gender-based violence, or that you're not responsible for coerced debt."

In February 2024, a federal bill that allows the US to gather data on economic abuse occurring within banks and other financial institutions was introduced. This focus on economic abuse, and survivors' material resources, marks a sea change in how survivors are supported at the federal level. It is critical to FreeFrom's survivor-driven approach and belief that a criminal justice response is not the only way to achieve safety.

Surviving Economic Abuse

UK-based charity Surviving Economic Abuse (SEA) also carries out research and evidence to inform stakeholders about what survivors need materially to stay safe.

"Abusers often start, continue, or escalate economic abuse after someone has left them," explains Sara D'Arcy, SEA's head of advocacy and communications. "Abusers make it difficult for survivors to rebuild their lives, and this is a primary reason survivors end up returning to abusive partners."

SEA uses research to call on policy makers, service providers, and

financial institutions worldwide to consider economic abuse in their decision making. SEA's landmark report, *Economic abuse: A global perspective*, brings together evidence from six continents to explore the global prevalence and existing responses to economic abuse.

"Women have been grappling with this and struggling with it, but there's been no name for it," says Sara, which is why the organisation sought to secure a definition of economic abuse in the 2021 UK Domestic Abuse Act. It's also why it works directly with banks to find practical solutions to support survivors.

"When you're having money troubles, you're more likely to speak to your bank than anyone else," says Sara. "This is why we've worked with the financial services sector to name 'economic control' as a life event that makes people vulnerable and we work with banks to implement practical responses to support survivors."

A successful example of this has been SEA's work with Starling Bank to create a feature for survivors to hide payment references. The idea came directly from a survivor who contacted SEA in distress after her abusive partner kept sending child maintenance payments accompanied by abusive messages.

Another example of survivor-led work has been the pilot of a new Economic

Abuse Evidence form, devised by Money Advice Plus (MAP), which runs the Financial Support Line, and is piloted in partnership with SEA. The form enables a debt adviser who is supporting a survivor to share information about their experiences of abuse with multiple creditors. For example, survivors often have five to seven different creditors. It can be really traumatic going to each one and having to re-explain the situation.

“

"Creating a process where they just tell their story once to a debt adviser, who can then speak on their behalf to creditors, reduces the need for survivors to keep going over traumatic information," says Sara D'Arcy, SEA's head of advocacy and communications.

So far, SEA and MAP have seen over one million pounds of coerced debt being written off, enabling survivors to move on with their lives.

Both FreeFrom and SEA are committed to securing safety for survivors experiencing economic abuse. Check out our online report to see a video about their work.

Grants

Association Découvrir

USD 170,455 (3 years)

To provide core support to Découvrir, a Swiss-based association that supports the professional integration of qualified migrant women in French-speaking Switzerland.

Association for Community Relations

USD 250,000 (2 years)

To support survivors of and prevent psychological violence.

Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)

USD 350,000 (18 months)

To provide core support to the access fund of the AWID Forum, the world's largest feminist convening, bringing together activists from feminist, gender, and social justice movements.

Equality Fund

USD 2,000,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to Equality Fund, based in Canada, which works to strengthen women's organisations and movements.

European Sex Workers' Rights Alliance - ESWA

USD 597,826 (5 years)

To build sex-workers' capacities and work towards their meaningful inclusion in policy debates and to actively respond to violence, exploitation, and trafficking in the European sex industry.

Fondation pour l'Égalité de genre

USD 113,636 (1 year)

To provide core support to Maison des Femmes, which works to advance gender equality and empower feminist associations in French-speaking Switzerland.

Fonds pour les Femmes Congolaises

USD 1,000,000 (5 years)

To provide support to Fonds pour les Femmes Congolaises, which provides technical and financial support to women-led organisations in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Free Yezidi Foundation

USD 800,000 (5 years)

To provide core support to the Free Yezidi Foundation, which delivers holistic care to Yezidis, especially women and children, in Iraq.

FreeFrom

USD 1,550,000 (3 years)

To build a global network of survivor-led organisations that find solutions for those experiencing economic abuse.

FRIDA | The Young Feminist Fund

USD 500,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to FRIDA | The Young Feminist Fund to enable it to provide accessible and holistic support for young feminist-led initiatives globally.

Global Dialogue

USD 2,000,000 (5 years)

To provide core support to the Global Narrative Hive for its work to contribute to a more equitable and just world.

Global Philanthropy Project

USD 50,000 (1 year)

To expand philanthropic support of LGBTQI communities in the Global South and East.

Initiative for Transnational Justice

USD 300,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to scale up its work on transnational justice and accountability.

Panorama Global

USD 600,000 (3 years)

To provide support to Gender Funders Co_Lab to implement feminist funding practices and outcomes, and support women's organisations in the global south.

Reconstruction Women's Fund (RWF)

USD 70,000 (1 year)

To provide core support to RWF for its work to resource, support, and sustain the women's movement in Serbia.

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors Inc.

USD 450,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to Grantmakers for Girls of Color (G4GC), which plans to scale up its work in the US.

Safer Families Centre of Research Excellence - University of Melbourne

USD 371,589 (2 years)

To provide core support to the Safer Families Centre of Research Excellence for its work to assist women experiencing psychological violence.

SOAS University of London

USD 250,000 (2 years)

To carry out a research project to establish the nature and impact of domestic and gender-based violence prevention work by IAWP's partners.

Solidarité Féminine pour la Paix et le Développement Intégral (SOFEPADI)

USD 1,000,000 (5 years)

To support SOFEPADI in reducing gender-based violence and aiding survivors through enhanced medical, psychosocial, legal, and socio-economic services in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Solidarité Femmes Network

USD 375,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to the Swiss organisation DAO Solidarités Femmes, which is an umbrella organisation of women's shelters in Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

Stichting Women Win

USD 2,350,000 (3 years)

To support the Numun Fund in its efforts to seed and sustain feminist technology organising and innovation in the Global South.

Stichting Women Win

USD 50,000 (8 months)

To provide support to Numun Fund, which is fiscally hosted by Women Win, to regrant and learn how to respond to technology-facilitated intimate partner violence for young feminists and LGBTQI communities, in partnership with We Are Purposeful.

Stichting Women Win

USD 9,500,000 (5 years)

To support the Nebula Fund, fiscally hosted by Women Win, to promote an inclusive, just, and hopeful vision of the future through its initiatives: girls' rights in sport; women's economic resilience; and the democratisation of philanthropy.

Superr Lab SL gGmbH

USD 250,000 (2 years)

To facilitate meaningful exchanges about healthy digital futures that are free from violence in Europe and beyond.

Swiss Philanthropy Foundation

USD 606,456 (3 years)

To relaunch the IAWP Care Fund to support the care and wellbeing needs of existing IAWP partners.

Swiss Philanthropy Foundation

USD 2,358,016 (18 months)

To strengthen the not-for-profit women's sector in the UK to end violence against women by supporting 11 organisations addressing domestic violence, psychological violence, and trafficking.

TRAG Foundation

USD 7,400,000 (3 years)

To support TRAG Foundation to strengthen the women's movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia.

Transnational Institute

USD 450,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to Noor, a feminist think-and-do tank, for its work in Asia.

Transnational Institute

USD 450,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to the Institute for Journalism and Social Change in establishing new MA degrees involving students and partners in practical projects promoting a just, democratic, and sustainable world.



University of Oxford

USD 105,063 (1 year)

To disseminate research on the Comparative European study on the experiences of women victims of domestic abuse, with a focus on psychological violence and coercive control.

Women's International League

for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

USD 400,000 (1 year)

To provide core support to WILPF for its work to promote inclusive and peaceful solutions to conflict and prevent further violence.

WAVE Network

USD 653,261 (3 years)

To provide core support to the WAVE Network in offering advice, research, mobilisation, and capacity-strengthening to over 180 women's organisations in 46 European countries.

We Are Purposeful

USD 1,000,000 (5 years)

To provide core funding to the Global Resilience Fund for its work to support crisis response and recovery among feminist organisations and strengthen its work on collective care and wellbeing.

We Are Purposeful

USD 750,000 (3 years)

To partner with Numun Fund in fostering a safe and equitable digital environment for young women.

We Are Purposeful

USD 50,000 (1 year)

To support the Numun Fund, which is the first dedicated fund for feminist tech in and for the Global South.



Captions:

Page 27: Women's March protesters with #metoo and #timesup slogans written on signs at a rally held in front of the City Hall, New York.

Page 28.1: Sonya Passi, the founder of FreeFrom, an organisation of survivors working to dismantle the nexus between financial insecurity and intimate partner violence, speaks at the Survivor Wealth Summit.

Page 28.2: Nicola Sharp-Jeffs, the founder of Surviving Economic Abuse, with Jess Phillips MP, and a representative from TSB bank, at the Economic Abuse Awareness day parliamentary reception.

Page 29: Survivors who run GIFTED, FreeFrom's social enterprise, take the stage at the New York City premiere of the film SURVIVOR MADE, which documents and celebrates their work, healing, and joy.

Above: The Surviving Economic Abuse team at the Economic Abuse Awareness day parliamentary reception.

Learning Differences



Unlocking the creativity and power of every young person

In the Learning Differences Programme, 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 strategically with and invest in not-for-profit organisations that create learning environments to improve education for students with learning differences, particularly those who are furthest from opportunity.

We believe that every student should benefit from engaging and rigorous educational opportunities, regardless of personal and social identifiers that privilege some students and marginalise others.

The following story showcases our partners' efforts to support students with learning differences by prioritising their mental health and wellbeing.

Promoting mental wellness among young people

Growing up, Mayra struggled with learning differences, unsure why she experienced school so differently than other students. Over time, as she tried to hide her difficulties, her mental health began to suffer. Her parents, wanting to support her, feared that a diagnosis would limit her, or hold her back. After seeing a psychologist, she was diagnosed with generalised anxiety disorder, and hesitated to seek further treatment due to concerns about others' perceptions. However, after continuing to struggle in university and at her first job, Mayra saw a specialist and was diagnosed with several conditions, including ADHD.

Learning more about Mayra's diagnosis helped the entire family grow closer. Her mother recognised she had similar challenges and began seeking ways of coping with her own difficulties concentrating, openly discussing them with Mayra. Together, they redefined what success meant and fostered a shared commitment to learning and growth.

Supporting mental health for students with learning differences

Mayra's journey speaks to a larger issue – the shame and stigma that many children with learning differences face, and the mental health challenges that come with that. Studies show that students with learning differences are at a higher risk of depression and anxiety.^{1,2} According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the United States, following the Covid-19 pandemic, this problem became even more widespread.^{3,4}

In the course of its work, the Learning Differences Programme (LDP) began to see how mental health and social and emotional wellbeing ties in with efforts to support children with learning differences. As a result, we partnered with eight not-for-profit organisations that seek to promote mental wellness among learners through innovative projects. We have highlighted three of these below. While each project is unique, they all focus on critical issues at the intersection of learning differences and mental health, such as fostering

a sense of belonging for children with learning differences and equipping teachers to better support their students.

Creating a sense of belonging

Some partners focus on raising awareness, like Understood.org, a not-for-profit organisation offering free online resources to help children with learning and thinking differences reach their full potential. Its latest project, Through Your Child's Eyes, is a digital, interactive hub that sheds light on the diverse experiences of students with learning differences. Using storytelling to inspire change, the project features videos, podcasts, and articles that highlight what students need to thrive.

“

Our work supports neurodivergent individuals and the educators who serve them, and helps dispel misinformation about learning and thinking differences,” says Understood.org's co-president Nathan Friedman. “This is critical to helping parents and teachers understand the lived experience of someone who learns and thinks differently.”

Knowing the importance of reaching diverse communities across the United States, Understood.org partnered with UnidosUS to launch Cultivando Mentes Brillantes ('Cultivating Brilliant Minds'), a six-week course in Spanish designed for parents of school-aged children. Delivered through six community partners across the country, the programme aimed to demystify learning differences and mental health challenges while empowering families to advocate for their children.

“Sometimes, because of cultural perceptions of behaviour in our community, parents may feel that their children are misbehaving. However, the issue is often not behaviour,” says Nadia Hernandez of UnidosUS, “it's about addressing



Caption

Above: The photos throughout the Learning Differences Programme section of this report illustrate the work of our partners to support students with learning differences.



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the unique needs of each student to help them learn and comprehend the material taught in class.”

The programme is open to all parents in the community, not just families with children with learning differences. Many participants noted the programme helped them recognise signs of learning differences in their own children or others in their community. Some parents even realised they might have undiagnosed learning differences themselves. These insights aligned with the programme’s broader goal of creating more inclusive and empathetic communities. To learn more about the work of these organisations, read our partner stories on UnidosUs and Understood.org on the Oak website.

Building a supportive culture for educators and teachers

Other solutions focus on school-based interventions, such as the initiative by Education Forward DC, a not-for-profit organisation that supports education leaders, schools, parents, and students to drive meaningful improvements in Washington DC public schools.

In partnership with Transcend, a not-for-profit that seeks to reimagine how schools could be, the organisation supported four public schools in DC to pilot programmes that prioritised student and staff wellbeing. Each school identified its unique needs and challenges, developing a pilot programme with input from administrators and teachers, guided by a support team from Transcend. Participating schools were encouraged to share their learning with one another.

Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter High School (TMA) recognised the need for clinical mental health support for school staff. Its pilot programme offers one-to-one counselling sessions for teachers, understanding that teacher wellbeing is linked to positive outcomes, such as improved teacher retention, teacher-student relationships, and student achievement.

“When educators can show up fully at school, they are better equipped to address challenging issues such as student mental health and absenteeism. Addressing the wellbeing of teachers is really a holistic approach,” says Margie Yeager, managing partner of Ed Forward DC.

Following the pilot programme, TMA teachers reported feeling more valued and supported in their efforts. The school plans to continue incorporating these individualised support structures in its 2024-2025 school year. Read our partner stories on Education Forward DC on the Oak website.

A shared commitment to mental healthcare

Beyond these efforts, other Oak partners in this cohort are committed to supporting student mental health and wellbeing from a variety of vantage points and approaches.

The Children’s Health Council is launching professional development resources to help educators create inclusive learning environments.

The Search Institute is exploring how students with learning differences experience developmental relationships, advancing a relationship-centred approach in its research.

EdTogether is a not-for-profit organisation that seeks to empower youth with disabilities to thrive in learning and in life so that they can live to their full potential.

The Study Group (formerly Equity By Design/Friends of Brooklyn Lab) is refining schoolwide assessment tools to centre the needs of students with learning differences.

The Public School Forum of North Carolina’s Centre for Resilience & Learning, alongside partners like Duke’s Centre for Child & Family Policy, is addressing social-emotional learning and academic growth in underserved districts.

By prioritising mental health and social-emotional learning, our partners are working to promote wellbeing and create inclusive communities where every student can thrive. The Learning Differences Programme supports organisations working to unlock the potential of all learners.

References: Please see page 66 of this report.

Grants

Aga Khan Foundation

USD 3,000,000 (3 years)

To support the Aga Khan Foundation to implement Schools2030, which seeks to provide learning opportunities for children with learning differences.

Arizona State University Foundation For a New American University

USD 1,200,000 (3 years)

To support the Center on Reinventing Public Education to continue its focus on students with learning differences in the *State of the American Student* report, and to pursue new research into special education.

Alder Graduate School of Education

USD 690,000 (3 years)

To increase the number and quality of classrooms for public school students in California and across the US.

Bellwether Education Partners

USD 81,250 (6 months)

To convene a group of funders and intermediaries to collaboratively share insights, build perspectives, and discuss the strategic implications of Artificial Intelligence for the K-12 education system.

BroadFutures

USD 500,000 (4 years)

To provide core support to BroadFutures, which works to inspire employers to embrace neurodiversity in workplaces.

Cambiar Education

USD 1,000,000 (5 years)

To provide core support for All Means All, which supports school and system leaders to achieve outstanding results for students with disabilities through fiscal sponsor Cambiar Education.

Catalyst Education Inc.

USD 664,000 (3 years)

To strengthen the organisational capacity of Learning Differences Programme partners so that they are better equipped to achieve and sustain their initiative and organisational goals.

Center for Racial Equity in Education (CREED)

USD 600,000 (4 years)

To provide core support to CREED, based in North Carolina, which works to facilitate better educational practice and inspire institutional and systemic transformation to ensure that all students can thrive academically.

Center for Learner Equity

USD 1,996,924 (4 years)

To provide core support to the US-based Center for Learner Equity to improve access and educational quality for students with disabilities.

College Summit Inc. - PeerForward

USD 100,000 (1 year)

To support PeerForward in its work to engage students with learning differences as peer leaders to increase post-secondary enrolment among all students in high schools across the United States.

Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates

USD 599,147 (2 years)

To support students with disabilities and their families in the US to exercise rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and other related federal and state laws.

Digital Harbor Foundation Inc.

USD 500,000 (1 year)

To support the 2025 cycle of the Learning Engineering Tools Competition, a multi-million dollar prize competition to promote innovation in education technology impacting learners worldwide and contributing to learning science research.

Equal Opportunity Schools

USD 500,000 (2 years)

To support students furthest from opportunity with learning differences to have equal opportunity to succeed in advanced academic pathways.

Freedom Bound Centre dba Sol Collective

USD 250,000 (1 year)

To investigate the connections between educator and student wellness and learning differences, with the aim of fostering school environments where students with learning differences feel safe, empowered, and understood.

Foundation for Excellence in Education

USD 1,100,000 (5 years)

To support state leaders to advance solutions that increase student literacy across the US.

Georgetown University

USD 687,847 (3 years)

To support the Edunomics Lab at Georgetown University in its work to research and elevate state and district spending decisions that address the needs of students with learning differences.

Global Dialogue

USD 50,759 (3 years)

To support the International Education Funders Group, a learning and collaborating network for foundations with a commitment to improving educational outcomes, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

Global Impact

USD 400,000 (2 years)

To support the US-based Learning Heroes, which provides parents with research-based tools, resources, and simple actions they can take to support their children's academic and developmental success, through fiscal sponsor Global Impact.

Global Schools Forum

USD 100,000 (1 year)

To support a global learning community of non-state education organisations working to improve education at scale for children in low- and middle-income countries.

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

USD 200,000 (1 year)

To support the Hunt Institute in transforming teacher preparation and licensure programmes to include the science of reading and address learning differences, benefiting students nationwide.

Luminos Fund (The)

USD 1,000,000 (4 years)

To advance inclusive education for children with learning differences in Liberia, The Gambia, Ethiopia, and Ghana through research-backed, play-based learning approaches.

MDC Inc.

USD 3,000,000 (3 years)

To support MDC's efforts to improve educational outcomes for students furthest from opportunity with learning differences in North Carolina, the US.

Minnesota Public Radio

American Public Media (APM)

USD 900,000 (3 years)

To provide support for APM Reports' continued coverage of reading instruction, education policy, and curriculum in the US.

National Public Radio Inc.

USD 100,000 (1 year)

To support the National Public Radio to produce a programme on the impact of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act on students within the American special education system.

NewSchools Fund

USD 3,000,000 (3 years)

To address the needs of students with learning differences.

National Center for Learning Disabilities

USD 800,000 (2 years)

To provide core support to the National Center for Learning Disabilities, a not-for-profit organisation based in Washington DC, working across the US to enhance educational opportunities.



Public School Forum of North Carolina

USD 749,986 (3 years)

To improve mental health supports and social-emotional learning for students with learning differences.

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors Inc.

USD 500,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to Full and Complete Reading is a Universal Mandate (FULCRUM) through its fiscal sponsor, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors.

Special Education Leader Fellowship (SELF)

USD 1,200,000 (5 years)

To provide core support to SELF, based in the US, for its work to empower schools to become welcoming communities where all students achieve their full potential.

Springboard Collaborative

USD 675,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to Springboard Collaborative in its work to support students with learning differences in the US.

The Leadership Academy (TLA)

USD 965,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to TLA, based in New York, which works to ensure that students with learning differences receive quality education.

TNTP

USD 1,200,000 (4 years)

To develop and host learning networks at school and district levels in the US to enhance experiences for students with learning differences.

Transcend

USD 1,000,000 (5 years)

To provide core support to Transcend in its efforts to support students with learning differences in the US.

WestEd

USD 1,000,000 (3 years)

To support WestEd in its research to support students with learning differences.

Yale University

USD 790,000 (3 years)

To support the Education Collaboratory at Yale to research solutions for students with learning differences, disseminate best practices, and convene a National Advisory Board of Youth.



Caption

Above: Caris, Pedro, and Francesca, three children whose lives and experiences with their learning differences are guiding Understood.org's development of Through Your Child's Eyes. This is an interactive media tool to help parents understand what children with learning differences or attention issues go through.

Prevent Child Sexual Abuse



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Supporting a safer world where children can thrive

Stopping child sexual abuse before it happens has the potential to benefit millions of children around the world: data from UNICEF suggests that one in five girls and one in seven boys will experience some form of sexual violence before their 18th birthday.¹ The impact is often devastating and long-lasting, affecting mental and physical health, future relationships, and society at large.

Thankfully, child sexual abuse is preventable, and progress is happening. There is hope in the field and growing solidarity. Survivors and advocates are breaking through the culture of silence to call for action. Governments and private institutions have begun to accept that they can and should do more. And researchers and practitioners are showing that evidence-based prevention programmes and initiatives exist and can break the cycle of child abuse.

A shared vision of what it will take to end child sexual violence is emerging. Together, we can accelerate action and create a world where children are safe and can thrive. This is the focus of this year's story.

A Vision to Zero: ending child sexual violence

Imagine children playing in perfect safety. Imagine over 220 million girls worldwide attending school and university, with child marriage a thing of the past. Imagine kids exploring online from Brisbane to Bamako to Buenos Aires, without any risk of being targeted by predators. Imagine a world where childhood sexual violence is not tolerated anywhere. While this vision might seem like an impossibility, we believe that it is possible and that we are closer to making it a reality than ever before.

For children in every country, there is a threat of sexual violence, with one in five girls and one in seven boys facing child sexual abuse before they turn 18.² Child sexual violence is uniquely insidious because it is both intimate and institutional. It is both culturally specific and worldwide.

Oak has been investing in stopping child sexual abuse for nearly two decades, and our partners have been making great headway in tackling the issue of child sexual violence. However, the field remains fragmented, with many partners working in isolation and disconnected from other actors working across the ecosystem to drive change.

“

“As a funder, we were hearing from our partners that there was a great appetite to ‘think big’,” says Brigitte De Lay, director of Oak’s Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Programme. “There was impatience with the status quo, and impatience with incremental change. So we knew we had to think differently.”

This is the backdrop behind To Zero, an initiative launched in 2023 to speed up progress in ending childhood sexual violence, by working with sector leaders, practitioners, and survivors to envision a better future. To Zero is “bringing together these sector leaders, to work collectively, to imagine what that end to childhood

sexual violence would look like, and what it would take to get there,” says Sean Coughlan, To Zero’s director.

The leaders who have contributed to the vision of To Zero represent the best minds in the field worldwide. They include a diverse group of professionals working to drive change in different ways and contexts. Together, they have forged a new and field-level vision of what needs to be done to eradicate child sexual violence faster.

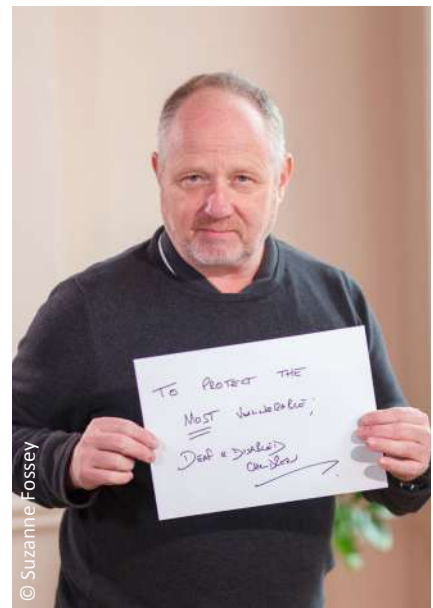
Over the past 18 months, To Zero has worked with the community to create a call to action called ‘A Vision to Zero’, which outlines areas to focus on over the long term to eradicate child sexual violence. “This includes eight ‘action accelerators’, which are proven things that can be done right now,” says Sean.

These are:

- transforming narratives around child sexual violence, so that difficult conversations about what is important and what must change can take place;
- galvanising political activism, centring survivors, parents/caregivers, and young people;
- incentivising institutions to protect children and end impunity for perpetrators;
- supporting justice reforms in order to shape survivor-centred justice systems and hold powerful institutions to account;
- incentivising the tech industry to create safer digital spaces for children;
- enhancing strategies to end peer-on-peer abuse, which means reducing young people’s exposure to harmful online content;
- strengthening the evidence base on child sexual violence, which will allow us to better evaluate and respond to it; and
- reshaping the funding landscape for action to stop childhood sexual violence.

Oak partners are among the ‘action accelerators’ celebrated in the report,

References: Please see page 66 of this report.





for example, the Oficina de Defensoría de los Derechos de la Infancia (ODI), an organisation promoting children’s rights in Mexico, has litigated cases in which young children have suffered sexual, physical, and psychological violence in schools. In 2021, it won a landmark case on behalf of the children. This resulted in harsh sentences for perpetrators – and crucial court mandates to help keep children safe.

The Ministry of Education is now required to incorporate education on sexual violence into its classrooms. Mexico City must guarantee ‘transparent schools’ without hidden spaces where abuse can occur. And, the Attorney General’s Office has had to expand its investigations into criminal activity.

Soma Sara, who founded Everyone’s Invited in the UK, provides a website where survivors of abuse and rape can share their stories anonymously to alleviate their distress, isolation, and shame. Today, it’s a community of over 54,000 survivors and young people breaking the culture of silence around child sexual violence. Everyone’s Invited now provides educational programmes for young people to equip them with the skills they need to engage in equal, loving, and empowering relationships. More than 100 schools have taken part in workshops, benefiting 40,000 students.

On the digital safety front, the Brave Movement and the Heat Initiative have successfully encouraged Apple to create a feature that enables

children under 13 to report nude images and videos in iMessage. Apple is rolling out this protection in Australia, thanks to efforts by the Australian Government and the eSafety Commissioner. Apple plans to implement this important feature globally. Such victories are both inspiring and scalable.

“In five to ten years, we’ll have prevention programmes that will seem as easy and obvious as infant car seats,” says Elizabeth Letourneau, director of Johns Hopkins’ Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse. “We’ll have a strong team of programmes, not only for wealthy countries, that can be disseminated and adopted in different ways around the world.”

‘A Vision to Zero’ is a call to action. It brings together a new global community dedicated to ending child sexual violence, and it offers a roadmap for protecting children everywhere from sexual violence. This collective power brings a shared vision and hope.

“In the years that I’ve been working on this issue, I feel that today seems more hopeful and exciting than ever before,” says Pooja Taparia, the CEO of Arpan, which has launched India’s Child Safety Week campaign to create awareness about childhood sexual abuse.

“To Zero is exactly what we need right now to truly change the world for children,” says Dalia Hashad, formerly from ParentsTogether Action. “By coming together across the globe, we can dream big and accomplish huge things. We have the knowledge, the tools, the connections – and now, with To Zero, we have the collective ambition to drive real progress to keep children everywhere safe.”

“To Zero can be transformational, for the field, for professionals, and for individuals, I think it can give us some sense of collective purpose that has been missing,” says Brigitte. “We may all care about ending child sexual abuse, but the idea that we care together to drive change over the long term, not just today and tomorrow, but for a generation, I think will make all the difference in the world.”

If you want to find out more about Oak’s Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Programme, please go to our website. You can find out more about To Zero here: to-zero.org, or check out the online version of this report to watch a video.



Captions

The photos in the Prevent Child Sexual Abuse section of this report represent our partner To Zero’s efforts to align and bring together organisations working to stop child sexual abuse worldwide.

Grants

African Population and Health Research Center

USD 568,000 (5 years)

To support three PhD fellows working to advance research on preventing child sexual abuse in Africa.

Amani Girls Organisation

USD 325,000 (2 years)

To prevent transactional sex between adolescents and adult men in Mwanza, Tanzania, through Amani's Girl in the Middle programme, which builds protective resources for girls and families.

Athleten Deutschland e.V.

USD 309,783 (3 years)

To provide core support to Athleten Deutschland to help make sports safe for children in Germany.

aus-unserer-sicht e.V.

USD 100,000 (1 year)

To strengthen the networking and self-advocacy capacities of survivors of child sexual abuse in Germany.

Avec les Survivant.es

USD 100,000 (1 year)

To provide core support to Avec les Survivant.es, based in France, for its efforts to bring together survivors of sexual, gender-based, physical, or psychological violence and raise awareness about their cause.

Bantwana Initiative Uganda (The)

USD 1,100,000 (33 months)

To provide core support to the Bantwana Initiative Uganda, which works to prevent violence and child sexual abuse in Uganda by empowering communities.

Child Helpline International

USD 793,478 (3 years)

To provide core support to Child Helpline International's mission to ensure that children and young people have access to high-quality child helpline services and are empowered to voice their concerns and receive the help they need.

Child Rights International Network (CRIN)

USD 1,086,575 (3 years)

To provide core support to CRIN to expand its work with survivors of child sexual abuse in Latin America to end impunity for institutional abuse.

Common Sense Media

USD 875,000 (30 months)

To support efforts that ensure that digital environments are safe for children.

Confédération des Organisations Familiales de l'Union Européenne

USD 450,000 (3 years)

To create a digital environment where children and their families are safe and empowered.

DeafKidz International

USD 503,330 (3 years)

To provide core support to DeafKidz International to support its mission to prevent the physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and neglect of deaf children globally.

Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation

USD 2,500,000 (5 years)

To find, fund, and support innovations in the field of preventing child sexual abuse.

ECPAT International

USD 3,250,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to ECPAT International for its work to support better regulation for child safety online in the EU, and protect boys from sexual violence.

ECPAT International

USD 90,759 (1 year)

To support ECPAT to co-develop a global alliance that champions the inclusion of boys in the child protection sector in humanitarian and development contexts.

End Clergy Abuse Global Justice Project

USD 500,000 (2 years)

To provide core support to End Clergy Abuse Global Justice Project for its work to hold the Catholic church accountable for the sexual abuse committed against children by its clergy, and to implement reforms.

Equality Now

USD 1,500,000 (3 years)

To continue and expand Equality Now's work for justice for adolescent girls in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Eurochild

USD 978,261 (3 years)

To provide core support to Eurochild, ensuring safe digital experiences for children and promoting their rights and wellbeing across Europe.

Fairplay

USD 1,346,011 (3 years)

To encourage better federal policies and enforcement actions that keep kids safe online in the US.

Futures without Violence

USD 800,000 (3 years)

To support resource mobilisation efforts towards addressing and preventing sexual violence against children globally.

FXB Rwanda

USD 520,000 (3 years)

To provide core support for the Sugira Muryango initiative in Rwanda, enhancing gender equality and sustainability by improving training, addressing gender-based violence, and engaging men in parenting.

Global Fund for Children

USD 4,500,000 (4 years)

To help set up a regional participatory fund to support and nurture the growing efforts in Europe to build a world where children are safe and free from the threat of child sexual abuse.

Guido Fluri Stiftung / Justice Initiative

USD 454,545 (3 years)

To provide core support to the Justice Initiative for its work to help implement the recommendations of the Council of Europe on the institutional abuse of children in Europe.

Heartlines Centre NPC (The)

USD 1,499,332 (3 years)

To increase the positive engagement of fathers and father figures in the lives of children in South Africa.

Hopelab Foundation Inc.

USD 220,000 (1 year)

To support the Responsible Tech Youth Power Fund, an initiative aimed at supporting youth and intergenerationally led organisations to foster responsible technology that enhances the wellbeing of all communities.

Hopewell Fund

USD 1,500,000 (2 years)

To provide core funding to the Heat Initiative, housed in Hopewell Fund, to support safer digital environments for children.

Imagine. Do. Pty Ltd

USD 99,837 (1 year)

To build awareness about how pornography harms children and young people, and how to prevent it.

International Justice Mission

USD 1,000,000 (3 years)

To protect children from sexual violence by scaling community support systems, building partner capacity, and promoting justice for survivors.

Internet Watch Foundation

USD 903,987 (3 years)

To work together with people and communities to stop child sexual abuse online.

Lucy Faithfull Foundation

USD 1,178,481 (4 years)

To provide core support to the Lucy Faithfull Foundation, based in the UK, to help harness its research to further enhance its efforts to prevent child sexual abuse.



OpEd Project

USD 90,000 (1 year)

To support The OpEd Project's efforts to amplify the voices of leaders working on the prevention of child sexual abuse, ensuring their ideas shape important public conversations.

Panorama Global

USD 330,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to the Elevate Children Funders Group for its work to leverage more and better funding for children and youth facing adversity worldwide.

Panorama Global

USD 1,850,956 (2 years)

To provide core support to Panorama Global for its work to set up an independent entity that aims to increase donor engagement and investment in the prevention of childhood sexual violence, and its work to strengthen communications and storytelling capacity for the field of child sexual violence prevention.

ParentsTogether Action

USD 1,500,000 (3 years)

To provide core support for ParentsTogether Action to scale its work to keep children safe online.

Pathfinder International

USD 1,200,000 (3 years)

To support the Kuwaza consortium (Pathfinder International, ActionAid Tanzania, and C-Sema) in its evidence-based sexual violence against children prevention toolkit in Zanzibar.

Proteus Fund

USD 230,000 (2 years)

To support the Prevention Collaborative to cultivate interest and strengthen the capacity of organisations involved in parenting and family strengthening programmes in Africa to reduce violence in the home.

Radix

USD 215,909 (2 years)

To support RADIX to implement its healthy relationship curriculum, As de Coeur/Herzprung/Batticuore, in 12 Swiss cantons.

Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)

USD 100,000 (1 year)

To strengthen the organisation's governance through support for RAINN's board and executive team, which are based in the US.

Regional Psychosocial Support Initiatives

USD 371,239 (2 years)

To strengthen the knowledge and capacity of regional and national organisations in Southern Africa to address child sexual abuse prevention.

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors Inc.

USD 447,000 (1 year)

To provide core support to the Just Beginnings Collaborative, a survivor-centred funding intermediary in the United States that works to prevent child sexual abuse.

Rwanda Men's Resource Centre

USD 525,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to Bandedereho, a fatherhood and couples' programme in Rwanda, so that it can be scaled up nationally.

Safe Sport International (SSI)

USD 250,000 (2 years)

To provide core support to SSI, which works globally to end all forms of interpersonal violence, abuse, and harassment in sports environments.

Save the Children Spain

USD 100,000 (2 years)

To build the evidence on what works to train professionals working with the Barnahus model, a child-friendly response model for child sexual abuse cases.

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

Solutions Journalism Network Inc.

USD 250,000 (9 months)

To support the Solutions Insights Lab, an initiative of the Solutions Journalism Network, in developing a platform for examining and addressing child sexual violence, informing To Zero's mission to end it within a generation.

Thorn

USD 3,000,000 (5 years)

To provide core funding to Thorn for its work to scale its technology and resources that help find child victims of sexual abuse faster, stop the re-victimisation of child sexual abuse survivors, and prevent online sexual abuse.

UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund

USD 4,000,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to Safe Online's efforts to foster digital environments where every child feels safe and empowered.

United States Soccer Federation

USD 1,500,000 (3 years)

To provide support to the US Soccer Federation's Safe Soccer Clearance Program, which seeks to prevent and respond to verbal, physical, and sexual abuse of soccer participants.

University of Massachusetts Amherst

USD 499,980 (2 years)

To support the UMass Amherst Rescue Lab, part of the Cybersecurity Institute at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, in its efforts to archive information on child abuse and exploitation on internet platforms, and to advance research and tools that rescue children from sexual abuse.

Women's Refugee Commission

USD 100,000 (1 year)

To support the inclusion of boys and young men in prevention and response efforts to address sexual violence in humanitarian settings.

Special Interest



Supporting a diverse range of partners around the world, reflecting the interests of Oak's Trustees

Driven by the interests and passions of Oak's Trustees, the Special Interest Programme provides the space and flexibility to make grants outside of Oak's other programme strategies. Special Interest grants are diverse, supporting grantee partners in a wide range of fields including medical research, education, environment, humanitarian relief, mental health, the arts, and much more.

Trustees support inspiring leaders, organisations, and projects from the local to global level, helping them to thrive and succeed in their missions. Read our stories, both here and on our website, and visit the grant database to see the diversity of grants within our programme. The Special Interest Programme makes grants globally. Our grants support individual organisations, intermediaries, and community groups. Our grants are usually multi-year. We provide: core support (i.e., flexible and unrestricted funding); project support; and support to strengthen organisations to become more resilient and effective.

100,000 steps toward a brighter future: MiracleFeet's journey to end clubfoot



© Olivia Castellanos / MiracleFeet

When Juan Carlos was born in a small town in Guatemala in 2016, his mother María was unaware that he had clubfoot, a debilitating birth defect that makes walking difficult and painful. But as he grew older and was unable to walk normally, his condition became increasingly apparent. Due to his disability, when he turned five, Juan Carlos couldn't start primary school like the other children in his community.

Each year, approximately 180,000 children are born with clubfoot around the world, 90 per cent of these in low- and middle-income countries.¹ Like Juan Carlos, many children born with this debilitating condition endure pain, limited mobility, and discrimination. While clubfoot is treatable in most cases, many families, like María's, struggle to find care.

Consumed with worry, María didn't know where to turn for help. "For a cold or something like that, you can just go get some medicine," she remembers thinking. "But for this, there's nothing you can do to fix it yourself. You need a specialist." Fortunately, María had a chance encounter with a kind woman on a bus who recognised Juan Carlos' condition and directed her to a nearby

clinic that treated clubfoot. The clinic is supported by MiracleFeet, a not-for-profit organisation that partners with local healthcare providers worldwide to provide training and materials for the treatment of clubfoot.

With renewed determination, María made many long and challenging journeys back and forth to the clinic, where Juan Carlos received weekly plaster casts before receiving a foot brace to maintain the correction. Today, he is in the final stages of recovery and is a happy child who can walk, run, and play without pain.

Juan Carlos is one of the 13,500 children MiracleFeet and its partners treated for clubfoot in 2024 alone. The organisation also trains healthcare providers to administer the Ponseti method, a highly effective and non-surgical technique considered the gold standard for clubfoot care. With the goal of preventing chronic pain and complications down the line, MiracleFeet also teaches frontline health workers to detect clubfoot at birth, so babies can be referred for early treatment.

2024 was a milestone year for MiracleFeet and partners, as they

reached their 100,000th patient with transformative treatment. The organisation also expanded into Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, and Mauritania, and reached more than 50 per cent of children born with clubfoot in nine countries.²

MiracleFeet is on a mission to ensure that no child experiences the pain and stigma of this treatable disability, and remains dedicated to its goal of ensuring that every child born with clubfoot has access to the care they need to thrive. Oak Foundation is proud to have supported MiracleFeet through our Special Interest Programme since the organisation's founding in 2011.

References: Please see page 66 of this report.



Captions

Above: Juan Carlos, 8 years old, was treated at a MiracleFeet-supported clinic in Guatemala. His clubfoot is now fully corrected and he's a happy and active child. Here he sits outside his home with his mother, María.

Opposite: Performers onstage at the Jette Parker Artists summer performance in 2018. Oak has been supporting the Jette Parker Artists Programme for more than two decades.

Using antibiotics in farming responsibly



© Jesus Kelley/Shutterstock

Farming methods have changed in the last century. In the past, harvesting crops and milking cows were mostly done without the use of farm machinery. In many ways, farms looked very different to farms today.

Advances in medical technology have changed farming too. In recent years, industrial farming has seen an increase in the use of antibiotics on farm animals. An estimated 66 per cent of antibiotics are not used on people or sick animals, but often on healthy livestock, which means that farm animals can be kept in overcrowded conditions, where disease spreads easily.^{3,4}

The widespread overuse of antibiotics in farming has knock-on effects – it contributes to antimicrobial resistance, not just in animals but also in people. Antimicrobial resistance occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites no longer respond to antimicrobial medicines.

This means that, as antibiotics enter the food chain, antimicrobial resistance is increasing in both animals and humans. As a result, antibiotics, which should be a crucial line of defence in the fight against bacterial-borne diseases, are no longer effective. In fact, resistance to antibiotics has led to at least one million deaths each year since 1990.⁵

Changes in agricultural practices are key to reducing antibiotic resistance. According to the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), agricultural practices that reduce the risk of antimicrobial resistance on farms are needed, as animals are more susceptible to diseases when they live in stressful environments or when the hygiene conditions are poor. WOAH recommends following good animal management practices that focus on disease prevention.

In addition, using antimicrobials responsibly is essential. Andrea Turner, a veterinarian based in Bristol, supports the idea of decreasing antibiotic use in farming. “Just making sure that we can reduce prevalence of diseases in the first place on our farms has really helped to reduce the

amount of antibiotics that our farmers even need to be using,” she says.

In 2018, out of concern for health, the European Parliament and Council adopted a new regulation on veterinary medicinal products: Regulation (EU) 2019/6 of the European Parliament and of the Council. This new regulation aims to slow down the spread of antimicrobial resistance from animals to humans by reducing antibiotic usage in animal farming. This kind of legislation is key to protecting the effectiveness of antibiotics, as it can help create a new framework for their use in farming.

This is why the Antimicrobial Initiative works with not-for-profit organisations in the EU to help fully implement the regulation at Member State and Commission levels.

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“The implementation of this regulation has the potential to decrease antimicrobial resistance in humans and animals in Europe, ensure the enduring effectiveness of antibiotics, and improve the welfare of farm animals,” says Megan Waters, strategic adviser for the Antimicrobial Initiative.

Oak supports Swiss Philanthropy Foundation and the Antimicrobial Initiative through our Special Interest Programme. Check out the online version of our annual report to watch a video made by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the importance of using antibiotics responsibly in farming.

References: Please see page 66 of this report.



Caption: The Antimicrobial Initiative works with not-for-profit organisations in the EU towards the full implementation of a regulation that supports the responsible use of antibiotics in farming at Member State and Commission levels. In the photo, a shepherd in Oiz, Basque Country, Spain, leads his flock.

Helping a new generation of artists take to the international stage



Thomas Payne, a young talented music conductor, leans on a grand piano backstage at London's Royal Opera House. Some of the best dancers in the world practise here.

"Working with The Royal Ballet has to be the greatest opportunity I've been given in my musical career," he says. Thomas got his first major break thanks to the Jette Parker Artists Programme. He is one of over 140 singers, répétiteurs, conductors, and directors who have graduated from the programme since its launch in 2001. The programme offers exceptional artists from around the world the opportunities of a lifetime: the chance to be mentored and coached, while working alongside accomplished performers, creators, and musicians, and to take their first steps on the international stage.

Thanks to the programme, Thomas was part of the music staff from 2018-2020 at the Royal Opera and Royal Ballet in Covent Garden, London.

"When that contract came through and it said, your main place of work will be The Royal Opera House, I thought, wow, now I've made it,"

he says. Today, he is quickly gaining international recognition and has gone on to conduct orchestras at The Royal Opera House, The Royal Danish Theatre, the Gothenburg Opera, and the Scottish Ballet.

The Jette Parker Artists Programme's alumni come from 37 countries around the world, and it actively scouts for talent in South America, South Africa, Oceania, Eastern Europe, and Western Asia. In efforts to remove any unconscious bias, the panel assessing the performers can hear but not see artists when they perform online in the first round of singers' auditions. This helps ensure that all artists are given a fair and equal chance.

Mexican tenor Alan Pingarrón, a 2021 programme graduate, made Royal Opera history as the first blind artist to sing multiple mainstage roles. Meanwhile, Blaise Malaba, a tenor from the Democratic Republic of Congo, earned a place in the Jette Parker Artists Programme in 2020 and has since seen his career go from strength to strength. He has represented his country in international singing competitions

and returned to The Royal Opera House for the 2024 and 2025 season to sing Ferrando in *Il trovatore*.

The support for Jette Parker Artists Programme artists doesn't stop after graduation either. The programme is the only one of its kind to offer continued coaching post-graduation, helping to ensure the onward success of the artists as much as possible. Thomas also believes in nurturing the talent of the next generation of artists. He says, "It inspires me, as an artist, to give my all."

Please check out the online version of our annual report to watch a special concert to mark the 20th anniversary of the Jette Parker Young Artists programme, including talented tenor Alan Pingarrón.



Captions

Above: Performers onstage at the Jette Parker Artists summer performance in 2019. Oak has been supporting the Jette Parker Artists Programme for more than two decades.

Nature for all: widening access to the outdoor world



As a child, Efraín Chávez-Delgado played with sticks and stones in the waters of the California Delta, and watched sunflowers and tomatoes grow in the fields next to his school. He treasures those memories, and later in life, when he realised that his peers didn't all have the same opportunities, he felt inspired to make a change.

"I wanted to work towards people being able to have more access to nature," he says.

Efraín is now director of grant-making at Justice Outside, a US-based organisation led by people of colour that seeks to generate access to nature and the environment. Justice Outside supports conservation work, farming, marine science, ocean conservation, and access to outdoor recreation.

Efraín's role includes working on Justice Outside's Liberated Paths Program, launched in 2020. The programme works in several states across the US, and it recently expanded to North and South Carolina. It aims to build a sustainable outdoor and environmental movement, and supports outdoor initiatives and organisations that cultivate and celebrate the contributions of all communities. It

does this by providing networking opportunities for those working in this field. As Efraín says, the Liberated Paths Program seeks to reach "folks that we know are doing great work out there on the ground".

For example, in Durham, North Carolina, Justice Outside supports the not-for-profit organisation Rooted in Color, which focuses on fostering a deep connection between children, their families, and the natural world through language and literacy.

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"We hope that, through the lessons and immersive activities in nature, children, and their families, are inspired to connect to nature as well as care for nature," says Ranita Anderson, the founder of Rooted in Color.

Rooted in Color uses picture books as a way to prompt nature exploration and to allow children to see that everyone has the right to access and benefit from outdoor space.

Justice Outside also supports Toxic Free North Carolina (TFNC), which

runs a not-for-profit women farmers' network that sees the women "as stewards of the land, so that they can continue to do the beautiful work that they do", as Phoebe Gooding, TFNC's programme director, says. It works to promote safe alternatives to harmful pesticides and chemicals. To this end, Toxic Free North Carolina advocates for common-sense alternatives that protect people's health and the environment. It focuses on reducing toxic exposures for the people whose health is most at risk from pesticides.

Please check out the online version of our report to hear an interview featuring Efraín Chávez-Delgado talking about Justice Outside's Liberated Paths Program. We also feature a video about Justice Outside in the online version.



Caption: Justice Outside's Liberated Paths Program launched in 2020. The programme works in several states across the US, and it recently expanded to North and South Carolina. It helps children who would not ordinarily have ready access to the outdoors to get out into and enjoy nature.

Flourishing at the Beresford Street Kitchen



If you happen to be wandering St Helier's Beresford Street in Jersey, the UK, searching for a bite to eat, look no further than number 17. Here you'll find Beresford Street Kitchen (BSK), home to a warm welcome, great coffee – and a brilliant social enterprise that's transforming the lives of people with learning disabilities and/or autism.

According to 2021 data from the National Health Service, only 5 per cent of adults in England with learning disabilities are in paid work.⁶ BSK estimates that the figures in Jersey in the Channel Islands are similar.

Founded in 2017, BSK provides structured education, training, and employment programmes for people with learning disabilities and/or autism.

Upstairs from BSK's café at 17 Beresford Street, Print Works designs mugs, T-shirts, and totes for businesses and charities. There's also a catering function that serves family occasions and high-profile events, plus another eatery at La Hougue Bie Tearooms. These businesses pay real wages, and all profits go towards creating more opportunities for people with learning disabilities.

BSK aims to provide a solid grounding so that when they move on, they've

got something meaningful on their CV, a whole set of skills behind them, and they've learned the ins and outs of having a job.

“

“We've already seen people flourishing, thinking they wouldn't be able to do a particular job but actually finding they're brilliant at it,” says Eleanor Christie, one of BSK's founders.

Options on Jersey for young adults with learning differences transitioning to adulthood are very limited. BSK meets this critical need by providing them with more options and nurturing their self-worth.

At BSK's Academy, adults of all ages can access lifelong learning. Courses range from the 12-week Discover induction with high levels of support to the two-year Learning for Life programme, where trainees build their independence and progress towards employment.

The crew work alongside training mentors, professional chefs, and graphic designers. They learn skills in customer service, hospitality, catering, design, and printing.

BSK's original plan was to provide training for eight people, but it was inundated with applications and grew rapidly to meet demand. Over 60 people currently attend its training and employment programmes, and more join every year. “BSK made me confident. When I meet people, I like telling them what I do for work,” says Rachel, a member of the crew. “My life would be boring without BSK. It feels like a real job to me, and I like earning my money.”

The mother of another crew member, Talia, agrees. “The thought of Talia finishing school was terrifying, as there are not many options out there,” she says. “BSK has been amazing and made this time a lot less stressful. For families like ours, I can't tell you how important BSK is to us and for Talia's future growth and development.”

References: Please see page 66 of this report.



Caption

Above: The Beresford Street Kitchen in Jersey, the Channel Islands, is home to a brilliant social enterprise that's transforming the lives of people with learning disabilities and/or autism.

Empowering medics in countries impacted by conflict



When Dr Aisha Alghamji completed a course with the David Nott Foundation in Libya in 2018, the new skills she learnt gave her confidence. “My way of thinking shifted,” she says. “Lack of knowledge for a surgeon is paralyzing.”

The UK-based David Nott Foundation works alongside surgeons in situations of war, providing training to medical staff around the world, such as Aisha and her colleagues. Founded by David Nott, a doctor with 30 years’ experience in treating people needing urgent medical care in parts of the world affected by war and catastrophe, the foundation provides medical equipment and training. “I’ve seen the horrors of war,” says David. “But I’ve also seen the power of sharing lifesaving knowledge.”

His time on the frontlines of conflict and disaster zones in some of the world’s most dangerous places has allowed him to see firsthand how trained surgical teams and medical resources can bring hope in times of darkness and save lives. In countries where resources are scarce, access to equipment and training is often limited for the medical professionals and doctors who are at the frontlines of these crises. Sharing knowledge and expertise through the training programmes empowers local medical staff, thus improving the lives of whole communities long into the future, after the teams have left.

In Ethiopia, Dr Esayas Mustefa is the only general surgeon within a 130 km radius in his region. Due to ongoing conflict, there is currently a mass casualty situation in the country. Esayas has been able to attend a surgical training course in the UK, thanks to a David Nott Foundation scholarship. “I really appreciate the chance I was given,” he says. In Ethiopia he has put his newfound knowledge to use to improve the medical care of his community.

“

“That way, we are making a difference not just today, but also for tomorrow,” says David Nott, whose foundation trains local medical staff so that patients benefit long after his team has left.

Since its creation, the foundation has trained over 2,158 surgeons and anaesthetists in life- and limb-saving skills. Doctors have been trained across the world, including in Libya, Palestine, Iraq, Syria, Cameroon, Kenya, Moldova, Ukraine, Somaliland, and Yemen. The foundation brings the training material alive for the students, with innovative prosthetic models of hearts, veins, and kidneys, as well as a life-size, whole body silicone simulator model, a bespoke creation for the foundation. Esayas is just one of many doctors who has attended training in the UK thanks

to a David Nott scholarship, and the foundation has also provided 47 training courses directly at the frontlines.

The benefits are far reaching. Not long after completing the training, Aisha performed an operation on a woman in her late 50s, who arrived at the hospital suffering from severe, life-threatening internal bleeding. Aisha used the new techniques that she had learnt, to help save the patient’s life. Today, Aisha is passing on those life-saving skills to other doctors in her field.

Six years on, she works as a trainer for David Nott in Libya, sharing her knowledge with doctors from across the country. This is the thinking behind David Nott’s training – by sharing knowledge in engaging ways, the doctors working on the frontlines of conflict in challenging situations can both use the knowledge to help patients, and share it with colleagues and newer staff. Aisha talks about how satisfying it is to share those skills, and of the joy it brings to know that patients “will benefit, just as my patient did.” As David Nott says when talking of the foundation’s work, “That’s why we do what we do.”



Caption: David Nott and the medical team in action. The David Nott Foundation provides access to medical equipment and training to local medical teams at the frontlines of war and other crises.

Grants

Aalborg Zoo

USD 7,000,000 (3 years)

To support the development of Expedition Sikumiut at Aalborg Zoo in Denmark.

Aesop Arts and Society

USD 569,620 (3 years)

To support Aesop Arts and Society in the UK in nurturing evidence-based, scalable arts enterprises that address major challenges in healthcare, care-work, and other sectors.

African Climate Foundation Trust (The)

USD 10,000,000 (5 years)

To provide core support to the African Climate Foundation for its work to help deliver long-term socio-economic transformation and inclusive development on the African continent that addresses climate change.

Alliance Publishing Trust

USD 759,494 (5 years)

To provide core support to Alliance Publishing Trust, a philanthropy magazine dedicated to providing independent opinion, expert debate, and trusted insight.

Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP)

USD 300,000 (3 years)

To improve access to local food in the US by supporting local farmers, professional development services, and resources.

Campaign for Southern Equality

USD 500,000 (5 years)

To provide core support for its work to support LGBTQI communities in the South of the US.

Cancer Research UK

USD 9,997,008 (3 years)

To support Cancer Research UK to accelerate the development and provision of bespoke drugs/therapeutics for children and young people affected by cancer.

CANSEARCH Foundation

USD 100,000 (1 year)

To improve the survival and the quality of life of children and adolescents affected by cancer by using precision and personalised medicine approaches that optimise drug administration and prevent the risk of treatment-related toxicities.

Carroll Centre

USD 316,456 (5 years)

To provide core support to the Carroll Centre, a community centre in Winchester, the UK, that provides services and activities for young people that promote learning and personal development, build self esteem, foster creativity, raise aspirations, enhance life chances, and reduce social isolation and inequality.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro Public School Foundation

USD 2,000,000 (5 years)

To provide core support to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Public School Foundation to address the achievement gap and provide equal opportunities for all students in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools district.

Churchill School

USD 250,000 (6 months)

To provide a solar electricity backup supply to Churchill School, based in Harare, Zimbabwe, to stop the disruption of essential school operations.

Community Home Trust

USD 550,000 (1 year)

To acquire and restore five homes in the Eno River area of Durham, North Carolina, and transform them into permanently affordable rental and homeownership homes.

Concussion Legacy Foundation Inc.

USD 600,000 (5 years)

To support the Concussion Legacy Foundation for its work to advance scientific research, disseminate educational content, and provide support to people impacted by the outcomes of brain trauma.

Conservation Collective

USD 759,494 (3 years)

To provide core support to the Conservation Collective to scale up a global network of local foundations funding effective community conservation initiatives to protect the environment, restore nature, and safeguard against climate change.

Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Western NC, Inc. dba OnTrack Financial Education & Counseling

USD 350,000 (5 years)

To empower people in Western North Carolina to secure housing stability, achieve financial goals, increase resilience, and begin asset building through comprehensive financial capability services.

Courtauld Institute of Art

USD 753,825 (3 years)

To support the Transforming the Future of Young People Through Art programme.

Dash Arts Limited

USD 271,899 (2 years)

To provide core support to Dash Arts to strengthen the organisation's infrastructure, improve sustainability, build financial resilience, and continue the delivery of its artistic programme.

David Nott Foundation

USD 990,000 (3 years)

To support the David Nott Foundation's mission to train medical professionals to provide safe, skilled surgical care in countries impacted by conflict and catastrophe.

Dogs On The Streets Ltd

USD 360,759 (3 years)

To provide services and support to dogs whose owners are experiencing homelessness or receiving support for their mental and physical health.

Down Home North Carolina

USD 750,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to Down Home, a growing statewide organisation of rural and small-town communities in North Carolina.

Eagle Market Streets

Development Corporation, CDC

USD 600,000 (3 years)

To accelerate positive changes in communities furthest from opportunity in Western North Carolina through social change philanthropy.

Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne

USD 1,010,011 (4 years)

To support the scientific talent of the ELISIR programme to investigate how marine microorganisms and their immunity can influence the carbon cycle and therefore climate change.

EPER - Entraide Protestante Suisse

USD 1,100,000 (4 years)

To provide support to Permanences Volantes, which provides social support, information, and health promotion to migrants living in the Canton of Geneva, Switzerland.

Frankfurt Zoological Society - US

USD 545,823 (5 years)

To support Nuestros Espacios Protegidos to create one of the best-managed conservation landscapes in Europe, and potentially establish a national park in the Alto Tajo region in the Guadalajara Province of Spain.

Frederiksberg Hospital, H:S - The Parker Institute

USD 3,740,876 (5 years)

To provide core support to the Parker Institute at Frederiksberg and Bispebjerg Hospital in Denmark to conduct research and improve the prevention and treatment of musculoskeletal- and nutrition-related diseases and disorders.

Friends of Hudson River Park

USD 900,000 (5 years)

To provide support to Friends of Hudson River Park in New York City for its funding of critical work in environmental education, scientific research, environmental stewardship and sustainability, and park programmes and maintenance.

Fungi Foundation

USD 375,000 (5 years)

To support the Fungi Foundation in its mission to increase knowledge of the diversity of fungi, and recommend public policy for its conservation.

Girls Who Code, Inc.

USD 1,000,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to Girls Who Code, which works to close the gender gap in the tech industry.

Global Philanthropy Partnership

USD 500,000 (5 years)

To support Justice Through Food's efforts to provide resources and build the capacity of organisations to create food and agriculture systems.

Goldsmiths, University of London

USD 1,568,062 (5 years)

To provide project support to establish a new Migrant Futures Institute (MFI) that builds on Goldsmiths' ground-breaking research.

Good Shepherd Services (GSS)

USD 3,000,000 (5 years)

To provide core support to GSS's Prince Joshua Avitto Community Center in Brooklyn, East New York, the US, which provides safe places for children after school; leadership development for youth; skills training for adults; classes for senior citizens; and community-wide celebrations and recreational activities for all.

Gorongosa Project Inc.

USD 2,500,000 (3 years)

To strengthen community engagement, enhance environmental education, and improve conservation infrastructure and law enforcement in an area in the Gorongosa National Park known as Coutada 12.

HALO Trust

USD 500,000 (6 months)

To provide support to the HALO Trust for its demining work in the Cuando Cubango Province in Angola.

Havens Hospices

USD 284,810 (3 years)

To provide enhanced palliative care to children with complex clinical needs in Havens Hospices, Essex, the UK.

Humentum UK

USD 500,000 (1 year)

To reduce financial reporting burdens on not-for-profit organisations and create a fair and transparent global accountability system for donors through Humentum UK's IFR4NPO project.

InterTribal Buffalo Council

USD 1,000,000 (2 years)

To provide core support to the InterTribal Buffalo Council in its mission to promote the social welfare of American Indians and Native Alaskans by restoring buffalo to Indian lands.

Justice Outside

USD 750,000 (3 years)

To support Liberated Paths Grantmaking, a US programme by Justice Outside that provides financial and capacity-building support for environment leaders in North and South Carolina.

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)

USD 1,500,000 (3 years)

To support KIND's work to protect the rights and wellbeing of unaccompanied and separated migrant children from Guatemala and Honduras.

Line Art Walk

USD 632,911 (4 years)

To provide core support to the Line Art Walk to strengthen its sustainability, improve the accessibility of its programmes, and enhance its artistic and engagement programmes.

Maggie Keswick Jencks Cancer Caring Centres Trust dba Maggie's

USD 1,265,823 (4 years)

To give core support to Maggie Keswick Jencks Cancer Caring Centres Trust (Maggie's) to provide people with cancer and their families free, expert advice and psychological support online and in Maggie's Centres across the UK.

Marian Cheek Jackson Center for Saving and Making History

USD 1,000,000 (5 years)

To support elderly residents to safely stay in their homes and create diverse and affordable housing opportunities for the next generation of residents in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

National Centre for Creative Health (NCCH)

USD 379,747 (3 years)

To provide core support to the NCCH to support its work to improve health and wellbeing through the arts and creativity in the UK.

Neighborhood Funders Group

USD 1,000,000 (2 years)

To support Amplify Fund in empowering communities across eight key locations by implementing equitable grant-making strategies and updated evaluation frameworks.

Newcastle University

USD 220,000 (2 years)

To support research that informs the conservation of giant tortoises in the Galapagos.

Oak Leaf Research Ltd

USD 28,073,791 (10 years)

To support the development of a drug discovery programme on inflammatory brain diseases at Oxford University.

Oceana Inc.

USD 750,000 (1 year)

To provide support to the Andy Sharpless Ocean Innovation Fund, a new fund to develop innovative solutions that aim to improve the oceans and the lives of people who depend on them.

Operation Homefront, Inc.

USD 875,000 (3 years)

To support Operation Homefront's Critical Financial Assistance programme to build strong, stable, and secure military families in the US, so they can thrive in their communities.

Our Military Kids Inc.

USD 500,000 (5 years)

To provide core support to Our Military Kids, which supports the children of deployed National Guard and Reserve service members and wounded veterans from all branches of the US military service.

THE POINT Community Development Corporation

USD 900,000 (5 years)

To provide core support to THE POINT Community Development Corporation as a hub for youth education, environmental justice, and the arts.

Rainbow Trust Children's Charity

USD 1,012,658 (4 years)

To provide core support to Rainbow Trust Children's charity based in the UK, which works to sustain, strengthen, and enhance support for families caring for a seriously ill child.

Rewilding Britain

USD 632,911 (4 years)

To provide core support to Rewilding Britain for its work to free at least one million hectares across Britain in order to support natural ecological processes and key species on land and at sea over the next century.

River Action UK

USD 632,911 (3 years)

To provide core support to River Action UK.

Robin Hood Foundation

USD 5,000,000 (2 years)

To provide core support to the Robin Hood Foundation for its efforts to lift New York City families out of poverty.

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors Inc.

USD 10,000,000 (5 years)

To support efforts that protect ecosystems globally.

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors Inc.**USD 10,000,000 (4 years)**

To provide core support to the Urban Movement Innovation Fund (UMIF) in its work to increase citizen engagement and activity around issues of climate change.

Royal Hospital Chelsea**USD 759,494 (3 years)**

To provide core support to the Royal Hospital Chelsea in the UK to strengthen its capacity to deliver accommodation, comradeship, services, nursing, and end-of-life care to pension-age British Army veterans in recognition of their service.

Royal Opera House**Covent Garden Foundation****USD 10,000,000 (8 months)**

To carry out important capital works to enable the opera house to continue to put on world-class ballet and opera performances, and to deliver its learning and participation programmes safely and sustainably.

Safe Horizon**USD 2,000,000 (3 years)**

To provide core support to Safe Horizon, based in New York, which works to provide support, prevent violence, and promote justice for victims of crime and abuse, as well as for their families and communities.

Sageland Collaborative**USD 400,000 (4 years)**

To provide core support to Sageland Collaborative, which works to create healthy riverscapes in the Intermountain West of the US for the health of wildlife and people.

Shamiri Institute Inc.**USD 900,000 (5 years)**

To expand access to effective community-based mental health services for youth in Africa.

Shine Cancer Support**USD 443,038 (3 years)**

To expand Shine Cancer Support's services for young adults with cancer and strengthen its operations and sustainability in the UK.

South Bronx United**USD 300,000 (3 years)**

To provide core support to South Bronx United, based in New York City, for its work to use soccer as a tool for social change.

Swiss Philanthropy Foundation**USD 3,000,000 (3 years)**

To support civil society organisations to protect the effectiveness of antibiotics in Europe and improve the welfare of farm animals.

Swiss Philanthropy Foundation**USD 4,300,118 (3 years)**

To provide core support to the European Environment and Health Initiative.

Tenure Facility LRF**USD 10,000,000 (5 years)**

To develop new approaches to funding that put local communities, small-scale fishers, and Indigenous Peoples at the centre.

Trout Unlimited**USD 2,000,000 (5 years)**

To provide core support to Trout Unlimited for its work to advance innovative conservation solutions across the arid Intermountain West in the US that support healthy aquatic ecosystems and meet the needs of people in priority watersheds, such as the Great Salt Lake Basin and Colorado River Basin.

University College**London Hospitals Charity****USD 1,265,823 (5 years)**

To improve, maintain, and enhance University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust's patient and staff gardens, in order to improve the hospital experience, treatment outcomes, and wellbeing of patients and their families, as well as the wellbeing of NHS staff.

Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A)**USD 233,544 (1 year)**

To support the exhibition Design and Disability, which celebrates and centres design for, with, and by disabled people; and the V&A Schools Programme, which equips young people from across England with creative skills for the future.

Wildlife Justice Commission**USD 4,130,435 (4 years)**

To provide core support to the Wildlife Justice Commission to further its mission globally.

Winchester Youth Counselling**USD 632,911 (4 years)**

To provide core support to Winchester Youth Counselling to tackle the mental health crisis among young people aged 11 to 25 in the Winchester District.

Windward Fund**USD 1,500,000 (2 years)**

To support the Hive Fund for Climate and Gender Justice in funding under-resourced groups in the US South to transition from polluting energy to cleaner energy.

Zoological Society of London**USD 425,000 (4 years)**

To provide core support to the Zoological Society of London's Coastal Ecosystem Recovery Programme, which works to restore marine habitats, increase biodiversity, and empower local communities, ensuring long-term coastal ecosystem health and resilience in the UK.

Organisational strengthening

INTRAC**USD 112,548 (1 year)**

To allow Oak partners to access quality capacity-strengthening services locally through INTRAC, which provides training, consultancy, and research to civil society actors, organisations, and movements around the world.

Kairos Project CIC (The)**USD 212,658 (2 years)**

To strengthen the leadership skills of Oak's partners by facilitating access to exceptional professional development services.

Nonprofit Builder LLC**USD 163,043 (1 year)**

To provide quality organisational and capacity-strengthening services to Oak partners via the Nonprofit Builder platform, and support increased functionality of the platform.

Resource Alliance**USD 332,342 (1 year)**

To form and provide support to a cohort of 20 Oak partners from 14 African countries to revise their purpose and create income diversity via the development of skills, strategy, and networks to become financially resilient.

Swiss Philanthropy Foundation**USD 850,000 (2 years)**

To strengthen the organisational capacities of Oak partners through small grants that enhance fundraising, security, safeguarding, assessments, strategy, communications, governance, leadership, and management.

Brazil



Contributing to a secure, inclusive, and equitable society

In 2024, we closed our Brazil Programme. Over the previous decade, the programme's focus was on people – people who see their equal worth, rights, and dignity challenged or denied, and people who see these injustices, and work together to address them. Through our grant-making, we supported our partners' efforts to build a thriving society where solutions are co-created with communities, changemakers, and policy makers.

Our partners' work in Brazil has included upholding the land rights recognised by Brazilian laws and reducing violence resulting from tenure insecurity. In rural and forest areas, they have protected human rights defenders and traditional communities, as well as encouraged alternatives to the current development model that favour and promote the ability of communities to thrive. In urban environments, they have protected under-resourced communities against forced evictions, pursued improved and accessible public transport, and defended other measures to help build fairer cities.

Since 2000, Oak has provided USD 101 million in grants exclusively in Brazil. This total includes grants through several of our other programmes, as well as through the Brazil Programme.

We are proud to have supported the impactful work carried out by our partners. In the article on the following page, we showcase our partners' work to protect the rights of some of Brazil's traditional and Indigenous communities who live in Matopiba, which is mostly made up of the Cerrado biome, South America's largest savannah region.

Protecting land rights in Matopiba, one of Brazil's socio-environmental treasures

Close your eyes and imagine a water-rich, predominantly flat, and enormous region nearly 1.5 times the size of Spain, with natural resources that have significant potential as food and medicine. You have just imagined the region known as Matopiba, spanning 73 million hectares and stretching across four north-eastern states of Brazil.

Matopiba lies almost entirely within the Cerrado biome, South America's largest savannah region of vital environmental importance. Home to 837 species of birds, 120 reptiles, 150 amphibians, 1,200 fish, 90,000 insects and 199 mammals, it is one of the most biodiverse savannahs in the world.^{1,2,3} It is also home to cultural diversity and millions of people, many of whom belong to Brazil's traditional and Indigenous communities and practise sustainable family farming, artisanal fishing, and other activities which value and preserve the region's natural resources.

Since the 1980s, major agri-business, mining, infrastructure, and energy projects, and intense corporate interest have contributed to the displacement of communities, over-used and polluted water supplies, and deforested the land.

Several organisations are helping to support local communities to be able to continue to live there peacefully. Here we list three of our partners in action.

National Campaign in Defense of the Cerrado

The National Campaign in Defense of the Cerrado is an alliance of 56 organisations, movements, and community associations. It seeks to protect the rights of the people living in the Cerrado savannah as well as the region's natural resources.

Among other things, the National Campaign in Defense of the Cerrado has worked to support measures that would grant the Cerrado ecosystem the same protections as the Amazon. Its work has helped put the Cerrado in the public eye, generating debate

around its importance and the severe socio-environmental destruction it has suffered in recent years.

Association of Lawyers of Rural Workers of Bahia (AATR)

AATR provides legal advice and trainings to communities, movements, and organisations facing land and socio-environmental conflict in the state of Bahia. Thanks to its work, carried out in partnership with other civic and state institutions, the Supreme Court has ruled in favour of local rural communities. The court revoked a Bahia state law that restricted the recognition of land belonging to traditional cattle breeders in Bahia to a certain period of time.⁴ This is a major success story for the local people that have long lived in the region. Now, AATR, alongside the National Campaign in Defense of the Cerrado, is acting as *amicus curiae*⁵ in similar cases in other states in Matopiba, working to overturn state laws that restrict the land rights of traditional communities and facilitate land grabbing.

Comissão Pastoral da Terra da Bahia (CPT-BA)

Securing land tenure for communities in Matopiba is long-term work, and CPT-BA is particularly experienced on the matter, having worked in the area since the 1970s. CPT-BA provides technical support to dozens of rural communities across Bahia state, many of which are traditional communities such as quilombolas or traditional cattle breeders. Thanks to CPT-BA's work, in the past year, over 200 families living on 3,000 hectares of land secured formal land recognition – many of them after a 30-year struggle.⁶ CPT-BA has also helped communities affected by the expansion of wind and solar energy projects into their land seek fair financial compensation and avoid violations of rights such as deforestation with no prior consultation with the impacted communities.

References: Please see page 66 of this report.



Caption

The photos in the Brazil Programme section of the report demonstrate the way of life of the communities living in the Matopiba region in the north of Brazil. Oak's partners are helping to support local communities to continue to live there peacefully.

Grants

Associação de Advogados dos Trabalhadores Rurais no Estado da Bahia **USD 240,161 (3 years)**

To provide core support to Associação de Advogados dos Trabalhadores Rurais no Estado da Bahia, which gives legal support to social movements, rural communities, and civil society organisations in Bahia, including in the Matopiba region and the São Francisco Valley.

Associação Habitat para a Humanidade **USD 400,020 (2 years)**

To support civil society groups working on urban land and water issues in Brazilian cities, especially in the north and northeast regions.

Centro de Trabalho Indigenista **USD 300,000 (3 years)**

To strengthen Indigenous organisations, and promote the dissemination and preservation of Indigenous cultural knowledge.

Escola de Ativismo **USD 480,000 (3 years)**

To strengthen rural communities in the Cerrado and Caatinga regions and support the organisational restructuring of the Escola de Ativismo.

Iniciativa Negra por uma Nova Política sobre Drogas - Black Initiative for a New Drug Policy **USD 315,000 (3 years)**

To promote positive community wellbeing by addressing issues related to drug use in Brazil.

Iniciativa Negra por uma Nova Política sobre Drogas - Black Initiative for a New Drug Policy **USD 360,000 (3 years)**

To promote positive reform in Brazilian drug policy through research, communications, strategic networks, and strengthening Civil Society Organisations and movements.

Instituto Betty e A. Jacob Lafer **USD 80,000 (2 years)**

To help boost a culture of giving that benefits civil society initiatives working to improve circumstances for people in Brazil.

Instituto Incube **USD 100,000 (1 year)**

To help establish More in Common in Brazil, an organisation that seeks to find common ground among different constituencies through research and capacity building.

Instituto Incube **USD 500,000 (2 years)**

To design and launch a pilot fund for Brazilian public interest journalism in the interest of building a fair, ethical, and peaceful society.

Instituto Incube **USD 581,000 (2 years)**

To support a portfolio of Brazilian organisations and initiatives focused on enhancing community wellbeing and addressing issues related to drug use in Brazil.

O Joio e O Trigo **USD 210,000 (3 years)**

To provide core support to O Joio e O Trigo, an independent news outlet in Brazil.

Rede Social de Justiça e Direitos Humanos (Network for Social Justice and Human Rights) **USD 239,964 (3 years)**

To provide legal, research, education, and communications support to communities in the Cerrado.



Oak Foundation Denmark



© I Tråd Med Verden

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

Oak Foundation Denmark partners with not-for-profit organisations that have a direct impact on people's lives. 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 our grant-making includes support for strategies and approaches that address challenges at the community level. We also contribute to strengthening or building organisational capacity. We primarily provide funding to small- and medium-sized organisations.

We support organisations that provide innovative solutions to improve the lives of socially vulnerable and marginalised groups at the community level. As well as supporting not-for-profit organisations in Denmark, we also support organisations in Greenland and the Faroe Islands.

In this year's annual report, we highlight the work of our partner I Tråd Med Verden, a Copenhagen-based organisation that connects women furthest from opportunity with meaningful work through sewing and textile design.

I Tråd Med Verden: sustainable development for women and the world

When Olena Khrystynchenko arrived in Denmark from Ukraine in 2022, her world had been turned upside down. After three decades as a librarian, she found herself displaced by war and struggling to start over. But just nine months later, Olena found a new purpose through I Tråd Med Verden, a Danish organisation that connects women furthest from opportunity with meaningful work through sewing and textile design.

"It means a lot to me to work here," Olena explains. "In Ukraine, I always dreamed of doing something more creative. I've sewn my whole life, and now I can do it professionally."

Olena's story is just one example of the transformative impact of I Tråd Med Verden. Headquartered in Copenhagen, it helps women from diverse backgrounds find a path back into the workforce through their local communities. The name, which loosely translates to 'In line with the world', conveys a special double meaning in Danish, playing on the concept of thread and its ability to build both literal and metaphorical connections.

“

"We serve a broad group of people," explains Martha Nina Ozmec, head of people and development. "It's mostly women who, for one reason or another, are outside the typical labour market. They need help finding their way back, developing skills, and experiencing the pride of accomplishing something themselves and being part of a community."

At I Tråd Med Verden, crafting becomes a source of healing. "Working with your hands has been shown to help calm the nervous system," Martha explains. "We aim to help people lift themselves up." For Liv Bejer Heckmann, head of design and development at I Tråd

Med Verden, sewing and social work go hand in hand. "There's a lot of female power in what we do," Liv explains. "We've created a space where both the work and the women doing handicraft are taken seriously and are empowered."

Language is another key barrier that I Tråd Med Verden helps women overcome. Many of the participants are still learning Danish, and the workshop becomes a supportive space to practise without fear. "We've often seen women start here shy about their Danish skills," says Liv. "But within weeks, they're helping translate for new women. That transformation is so powerful."

The products that Liv, Olena, and their colleagues produce are as unique as the women creating them. Whether repurposing linens donated by the hospitality industry into Scandinavian-style home décor, or upcycling old museum banners into tote bags, their designs revolve around the concept of reuse and transformation.

Over the past decade, Martha has noticed a shift in how companies approach their responsibility for reducing waste and selecting environmentally friendly materials. "It's been great to connect with businesses that want to buy something better and more meaningful than they could find elsewhere," Martha explains. This change has helped raise visibility of I Tråd Med Verden's work.

"We see possibilities in materials that others would just dispose of," Liv explains. "But for me the exciting part begins when we match the materials with a particular woman's skills. That's when something uniquely 'I Tråd Med Verden' is created."

Over the next three years, I Tråd Med Verden plans to invest in strengthening its leadership team and building strategic partnerships with both public and private entities. By 2028, this support will allow it to create 70 per cent more employment opportunities for women furthest



from opportunity, and expand its social programmes to welcome 60 per cent more people into the workshop.



Captions:

The photos throughout the Oak Foundation Denmark section of the report feature staff and members of I Tråd Med Verden, a Copenhagen-based organisation that connects women furthest from opportunity with meaningful work through sewing and textile design.

Grants

Den fælleskommunale forening Kivitsisa USD 137,226 (1 year)

To develop educational materials that teach technological skills and support new digital opportunities in Greenlandic public schools, in close collaboration with the National Board of Education and the Department of Agriculture, Self-Sufficiency, Energy, and Environment.

Digitalt Ansvar USD 189,418 (1 year)

To support Digitalt Ansvar in its work to document whether tech companies comply with the EU regulations to combat digital violence.

Drys Ind USD 65,693 (3 years)

To support volunteers in creating a welcoming community centre for the elderly in Copenhagen, offering meals and warmth, practical help, and social networking.

Exitcirklen – Veje ud af psykisk vold USD 605,839 (3 years)

To build capacity and support dialogue groups around psychological abuse, and to provide other support to people and communities.

Fonden For Socialt Ansvar USD 116,788 (1 year)

To ensure ongoing capacity growth and increased support for the organisation and the 16 social initiatives for which it serves as an umbrella group.

Foreningen Impact Insider USD 291,971 (2 years)

To support a media outlet that supports small and medium-sized organisations with access to knowledge and tools for measuring their impact, aiming to enhance their visibility and operations.

Fødevarerbanken USD 889,139 (3 years)

To help Fødevarerbanken gather and distribute food across North Jutland, thus achieving full coverage of food distribution across Denmark, and to strengthen the collaboration and support of various local food waste initiatives in Denmark.

Gadens Stemmer USD 379,562 (3 years)

To provide support to Gadens Stemmer, which offers 1,700 street tours guided by members of the homeless community across Denmark, thus providing employment, reducing prejudice against socially-marginalised individuals, and fostering greater societal understanding.

Gallo Kriserådgivning & Værested S/I USD 136,688 (1 year)

To support Gallo Kriserådgivning & Værested, which provides psychosocial work in Aarhus to people in need of mental healthcare.

Herfra og Videre – Christianias beboerrådgivning USD 476,963 (3 years)

To strengthen the capacity of Christianias beboerrådgivning, which provides health and social care.

Hjælp til Hjemløse USD 73,530 (2 years)

To provide homeless and marginalised people in Aarhus with a better and more dignified life by supporting a group of volunteers working to support employment, distribute food and clothing, and ensure basic necessities.

I Tråd med Verden USD 144,818 (1 year)

To support I Tråd med Verden to establish new leadership and to expand, thus providing more job opportunities in repurposing discarded textiles, and social networking opportunities to people from diverse backgrounds.

KFUKs Sociale Arbejde USD 707,620 (3 years)

To strengthen KFUKs Sociale Arbejde by developing the organisation, refreshing its business model, and building up management and social work skills.

Kivitsisa – Et løft af den grønlandske folkeskole USD 547,445 (3 years)

To strengthen Greenland's public school system, contribute to supplementary teaching methods in Greenland, adapt school tests, and improve ongoing teacher training.

Lev uden vold USD 118,487 (1 year)

To support Lev uden vold to more clearly define physical and psychological violence, in order to assist policy makers and professionals to better support people experiencing violence.

NEFOS – Fonden for Socialt Ansvar USD 739,066 (3 years)

To support NEFOS – a service for those bereaved by suicide – while ensuring it has ongoing capacity for growth.



India



Supporting equitable opportunities for all

In 2024, we closed our India Programme. Since 2011, Oak committed approximately USD 79 million to 106 partners working in Jharkhand and West Bengal in the eastern region of India on the Bay of Bengal.

Over the course of the programme, our partners worked to sustainably improve the lives of marginalised people living in this region, and it has been an honour to be a small part of their incredible efforts.

The India Programme's grant-making deliberately supports efforts that put community voices at the centre, leading to community-driven actions fostered by local leaders. The article on the following pages illustrates the efforts of our partners working in West Bengal to help young women who have been trafficked to rebuild their lives.

Supporting survivors of trafficking in West Bengal

Najama lives with her husband and young daughter in a small village in West Bengal. She is actively involved in a local community group for trafficked women, and she seeks to raise awareness about this problem that is so prevalent across India. “We want to be more strong, more resistant. Together we are stronger, and our voices can be heard at higher levels,” she says.

The issue of trafficking is uncomfortably close to Najama’s heart. West Bengal has long served as a major hub for both domestic and international human trafficking. It is vulnerable to trafficking, largely because of widespread poverty in the region and its porous borders.

When she was 14, Najama was kidnapped, drugged, and transported, unconscious, to a large city in the state of Maharashtra, one of the most industrialised states in India. There, she was forced into sex work. Najama’s story is sadly not unique. Every year, hundreds of women and children are trafficked both within and outside of India’s borders, primarily for commercial sexual exploitation and bonded labour.¹

In January 2024, India’s federal Home Ministry informed its Parliament that as many as 10,659 cases of trafficking were reported between 2018 and 2022.² However, anti-trafficking not-for-profit organisations in the country claim that the actual number of human trafficking cases in India is much higher, stating that many victims choose not to report their stories to law enforcement agencies due to fears of social stigma and reprisal from traffickers.

Some months after Najama’s disappearance, someone noticed suspicious activity in one of the apartments in their neighbourhood in Maharashtra. Suspecting an illegal brothel, they went to the police, who carried out a raid, arresting the traffickers and rescuing the girls. Najama was among them. The police called the girls’ parents and informed them. It was from there that Najama and the other girls were able to start their journeys of recovery.

The Indian Ministry of Home Affairs has taken measures to prevent and counter human trafficking in the country. This includes setting up 225 specialised anti-trafficking units, as well as training programmes for police and prosecutors.³ Oak’s partners work in West Bengal alongside the government-run formal systems in place to help survivors of trafficking access their entitlements. They also seek to address underlying causes that create favourable conditions for trafficking. For example, as more young people migrate for economic reasons, Oak’s partners promote education and skills training, gainful local employment, and safe migration practices as part of their trafficking prevention work.

“

“Reintegration can only happen when we address stigma and discrimination,” says Paulami De Sarkar from Terre des hommes Lausanne.

Terre des hommes (TdH) Lausanne is an international not-for-profit organisation committed to protecting children’s lives and rights, and promoting their wellbeing. The stigma associated with sex trafficking can be hard for survivors to endure, and TdH has developed powerful and enduring reintegration strategies that empower women and girls to overcome challenges and successfully reintegrate into their communities.

Similarly, the Taftesh consortium, comprised of groups of survivor collectives, lawyers, social workers, researchers, mental health professionals, and not-for-profit organisations, supports survivors both socially and legally to reintegrate back into their communities. The Taftesh consortium, supported by Kamonohashi, a not-for-profit organisation headquartered in Japan, has enabled many survivors to gain access to victim compensation and free legal aid, community-based rehabilitation services, and legal



Caption:

Every year, hundreds of women and children are trafficked, both within and outside of India’s borders, primarily for commercial sexual exploitation and bonded labour. Oak’s partners Terre des hommes Lausanne, Taftesh, Pratham, and The British Asian Trust are working in West Bengal to strengthen communities to be more resistant to trafficking, and to help young women who have been trafficked to rebuild their lives. The women in the photos represent people whose lives have been affected by trafficking, or who are at risk of being trafficked.



services. As a result, survivors have even been able to build homes with government compensation, which goes a long way towards helping them rebuild their lives.

“

“Taftteesh is a collective of survivors who are searching for their own justice,” says Snigdha Sen, programme manager in Taftteesh. “They have a clear agenda, they want their justice, and they are raising their voices together.”

Taftteesh survivor collectives are now organising community groups to strengthen their resilience and prevent cases of trafficking, elopement, kidnapping, and abduction.

The British Asian Trust (BAT) has brought together a consortium of six organisations to strengthen communities, help young people migrate safely, and prevent trafficking. It supports survivors to access services and build accountability of key systems so that those who need it most can gain access to victim compensation. BAT also works to tackle the underlying causes that

create situations where trafficking networks can flourish. For example, it supports families to access better livelihood opportunities, and encourages education and regular school attendance, thus helping to lower the risk of children being forced to drop out of school.

Pratham is a not-for-profit organisation that seeks to address illiteracy in India and break the cycle of poverty. It has set up a youth vocational training programme so that young people can acquire skills that lead to gainful employment and income security. This reduces the need for young people to migrate.

These are just some of our partners who are working in India to stamp out trafficking, and to support survivors. Check out the online version of our Annual Report to watch a video about the work of Taftteesh and Terre des hommes Lausanne in West Bengal.

References: Please see page 66 of this report.

Grants

Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation

USD 450,253 (3 years)

To support the entitlements of individuals and Indigenous communities.

Global Fund for Children (GFC)

USD 500,000 (3 years)

To provide support to the GFC for its partners in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh that are dedicated to promoting the wellbeing and safety of boys and young men who migrate for work.

Gujarat Mahila Housing Sewa Trust

USD 401,805 (4 years)

To support informal workers in Kolkata, India.

Ipas Development Foundation

USD 501,468 (3 years)

To support young women and girls in West Bengal by ensuring they have access to comprehensive healthcare services.

Project Concern International

USD 595,000 (4 years)

To support women and girls working in the tea gardens in West Bengal in addressing violence in personal, private, and public spaces.

Sanhita

USD 343,333 (4 years)

To provide core support to create safe and enabling workplaces for women, empower women workers with knowledge, and ensure effective resolution of issues.

SEWA Bharat

USD 262,429 (3 years)

To strengthen women working in the informal economy in India to access welfare schemes.

Swaniti Initiative

USD 650,000 (4 years)

To help the tea garden communities in the West Bengal region of India to access government schemes and benefits.

Swiss Philanthropy Foundation

USD 1,725,694 (3 years)

To support Swiss Philanthropy Foundation to give exit grants to six organisations who work to support people to access their entitlements in India.

Terre des hommes Lausanne

USD 420,000 (3 years)

To strengthen institutional capacities in regard to child-safeguarding in the context of disasters in the Sundarbans, India.

Zimbabwe



Contributing to prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable communities

The Zimbabwe Programme is a national programme through which we fund local organisations involved in supporting the hopes and aspirations of Zimbabweans, particularly those furthest from opportunity.

We support organisations operating in the following priority areas: helping families and communities thrive; building skills and fostering entrepreneurship; supporting children and others with special needs; and making strategic grants that empower Zimbabweans to improve their lives and communities. We align our grant-making to government and international development goals.

As of 2024, the Zimbabwe Programme started increasing its annual grant-making. This was our first year making longer-term grants, diversifying our grant-making to include new partners, and increasing grant amounts.

The story on the following page is about the efforts of our partners Young Africa and Education Matters, which work to build people's skills through vocational and entrepreneurship training, so that bright young people in Zimbabwe can become tomorrow's leaders and innovators, and find fulfilling work.

Hand, heart, and soul: empowering Africa's young workforce

Africa has the youngest population in the world, with 70 per cent of sub-Saharan Africa under the age of 30. Many of them don't have a reliable job.¹

Addressing this issue isn't as simple as creating more jobs. Right now, there aren't enough businesses to absorb the need, or the right skills to meet market demand. Vocational and entrepreneurship training are therefore crucial to supporting Africa's young people into work.

Young Africa is taking on the challenge with huge ambition. Through its network of centres across Southern Africa, it aims to train half a million young people by 2025.



“Our mission is to teach students skills of the hands to make them self-reliant, skills of heart and mind to live with dignity and responsibility, and skills of the soul to live with purpose,” says co-founder and CEO, Dorien Beurskens.

Young Africa works through a federation of independent not-for-profit organisations that run local training centres, youth employment programmes, and community activities across Zimbabwe, Namibia, Mozambique, Botswana, Zambia, and Angola.

From agri-business to wedding decoration, young people can train in 46 varied trades. Every course has a mix of theory and practical study, with training in life skills, entrepreneurship, and information and communication technology. For students in rural areas, Young Africa provides hostel accommodation or pop-up skills centres that teach courses from mobile training units.

“I've gained an interest in business studies,” says Tafadza. “Apart from the studying and skills of the hand,

we also gained life skills. I've realised the value of working hard to be successful.”

Every centre's programme is informed by regional market research, so that students gain skills that meet local needs. Through Young Africa's unique franchise model, local entrepreneurs can run their businesses from the nearest Young Africa centre and teach the skills of their trade to students. This helps centres become financially sustainable, and ensures they stay rooted in the local economy and community.

Young Africa is now extending its youth economic empowerment model to other organisations. For example, it works with four of Oak's partners to train young people to join their teams:

- The Bethany Project provides community-based care of orphans and vulnerable children, with a focus on skills building and youth empowerment, in Zvishavane, southern Zimbabwe.
- Simukai addresses issues affecting young people and their communities. It works on child protection and advocates for an end to early childhood marriage in Manicaland, eastern Zimbabwe.
- Family Action for Community Empowerment (FACE) provides integrated care, support, and livelihoods for communities furthest from opportunity in the Makoni District of Zimbabwe.
- MASO supports the wellbeing and livelihoods of people living with HIV in Midlands Province of Zimbabwe.

Young Africa is already seeing the impact of the trainings – around 70 per cent of students find work within six months of finishing their training.² Two thirds of them start their own businesses, and the remaining third find employment in their chosen fields.

The goal of teaching marketable skills to 500,000 young people is well in sight, with more than 320,000 young people reached so far. Skills-building



initiatives in Nigeria are planned to start in 2025, with future expansion to Ghana and South Africa.



Caption:
Above, page 61 and 64: Young Africa offers vocational and entrepreneurship training through its network across Southern Africa to help support Africa's young people into work.

Education Matters: talent meets opportunity

Education Matters is a not-for-profit organisation that provides bright children in Zimbabwe with the skills to become tomorrow's leaders and innovators, in particular young people who would never have access to these opportunities ordinarily.

Since Zimbabwe's economic downturn in the 2000s, the gap between public and private provision continues to widen. In particular, the quality of education has declined, and as a result, Zimbabwe has been caught in a cycle of losing or overlooking its young talent – and in turn, the future leaders who could help turn their homeland's fortunes around.

This has motivated Education Matters to break this cycle. Zimbabwe has many determined and talented students who lack only financial resources and information to better their educational futures.

“

"Too often we focus on poverty and not the potential of remarkably resilient, empathetic, and bright young Zimbabweans," says founder and director Rebecca Zeigler Mano. "We're here to help motivated students realise their dreams."

Education Matters offers a range of programmes to achieve this aim: Zimbabwe Career Connect matches Zimbabwean students studying overseas with internships back home during vacations; TWEENS provides peer tutoring for young refugees in Tongogara Refugee Camp, located south-east of Zimbabwe.

At its heart is USAP Community School, which began in 1999 as a college access programme to help high-achieving, low-income students access university education abroad. The programme supported talented students in their final school year through coaching and workshops. For

20 years, USAP has helped over 400 Zimbabweans gain full scholarships to top colleges and universities around the world, including Harvard, Yale, Amherst, Smith, Pomona, Princeton, MIT, Brown, Columbia, Stanford, and many more. Its pathways have already led to young Zimbabweans achieving PhDs, and to successful new enterprises being started in Africa.

In 2020 this bold and creative programme found its own home – USAP Community School, first at a rented location, and now in a newly built residential campus in Marondera, located about 72 km east of Harare. Students follow a two-year curriculum that fosters critical thinking and problem-solving skills and empowers them to research and make an impact on their communities. Here, Cambridge A level Sciences curriculum sits alongside the exploration of an African-centred humanities course, computer coding, Capstone Research and a wide range of extracurricular activities such as drama, music, robotics and sports.

"Our demanding curriculum builds skill levels, nurtures creativity, and allows them to question and explore learning," says the head of the school, Ellen Mutambara Mapiko. "We support young people who are thinking through how to address challenges in Zimbabwe, to start thinking about how to come home to build up the society, before they even leave."

In the school's Capstone project, final-year students apply their knowledge and skills to research a real-world challenge in their home community. After graduating, selected fellows receive funding to return home and put their ideas into action on a six-month project. For example, one student, Munashe, is researching the health effects of pesticides on farmers in Bindura.

"I hope to create positive change, starting from my community," Munashe says. "By helping label pesticide containers in native



languages and simple diagrams, I aim to help farmers across Zimbabwe, not only in Bindura."

With Education Matters' support for promising young people like Munashe, tomorrow's Zimbabwe has equal promise.

References: Please see page 66 of this report.



Caption:

Above: Education Matters provides bright youth in Zimbabwe with the skills to become tomorrow's leaders and innovators, in particular young people who would never have access to these opportunities ordinarily.



Grants

Africa Ahead

USD 310,000 (2 years)

To help establish community health clubs in Manicaland Provinces in Zimbabwe in order to improve community hygiene, sanitation, and environmental health.

Education Matters

USD 120,000 (2 years)

To provide core support to Education Matters and USAP Community School student programmes.

Family Action for Community Empowerment in Zimbabwe

USD 186,692 (2 years)

To improve the quality of life of people living with HIV and AIDS.

Friendship Bench

USD 299,795 (1 year)

To provide community-based mental health support for people in Matebeleland North and South provinces in Zimbabwe, and to provide training to 160 community health workers.

Give a Child a Family

USD 130,655 (3 years)

To support Oak Zimbabwe's new grantee partners in assessment, development, and implementation of child safeguarding measures.

Hope for Kids

USD 159,998 (3 years)

To provide support to Hope for Kids in its work to teach kids in schools about entrepreneurship, giving them the skills and opportunity to engage in income-generating activities both during school and beyond.

Hospice and Palliative Care Association of Zimbabwe

USD 390,000 (3 years)

To improve the lives of communities, families, and individuals with life-threatening illnesses through palliative care.

J.F. Kapnek Trust

USD 716,368 (2 years)

To provide support to J.F. Kapnek Trust for its work to scale up work on quality health and rehabilitation services for children with disabilities.

National St Johns Council for the Republic of Zimbabwe, The

USD 299,982 (3 years)

To provide support to National St Johns Council for the Republic of Zimbabwe, which works with the community and other societal organisations to save lives through first aid skills and ambulance services.

Stitching Young Africa International

USD 1,000,000 (2 years)

To enable Young Africa to empower 810 young people with skills for increased employability, entrepreneurship, health, and wellness.

Sustainable Agricultural Technology (SAT)

USD 569,713 (2 years)

To provide support to SAT for its work to train youth in the Mwenzi district, Zimbabwe, in green agricultural technologies, and provide technical support, coaching, and mentorship to two Zimcare Centres to help them manage agricultural and income-generating projects.

The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

USD 1,139,013 (2 years)

To provide comprehensive capacity strengthening and accompaniment support to Caritas Masvingo, Caritas Mutare, Caritas Chinhoyi, St Alberts Mission, and Alfred Walter Hostel in Zimbabwe.

Time + Tide Foundation

USD 383,535 (1 year)

To support and mentor iGugu Trust and Jafuta Foundation, and to begin mentorship with two additional Zimbabwean not-for-profit organisations.

Uncommon.org Inc.

USD 450,000 (2 years)

To begin scaling up free technology education programmes in Zimbabwe, with the goal of training more than 25,000 people annually over the next two years.

Zimcare Trust

USD 499,864 (1 year)

To continue providing specialised quality education to all learners, particularly those with learning differences.

Zvitambo Institute for Maternal & Child Health Research

USD 240,000 (2 years)

To provide support to Zvitambo Institute for Maternal & Child Health Research, which seeks to produce a comprehensive nurturing care intervention package to improve child growth and development in rural Zimbabwe.

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The editors have tried to ensure the accuracy of this report but cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. A few grants have not been listed. In some cases names have been changed to protect the identity of individuals.

Please email commdept@oakfnd.org if you would like to provide feedback.

