























## **Our mission**

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

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## **Our history**



Since its establishment, Oak Foundation has made more than 5,880 grants to not-for-profit organisations around the world.

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

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

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

Since then Oak has been growing steadily and today we have 11 programmes, through which we have made more than 5,880 grants to organisations around the world.

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

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

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

## **Letter from the Trustees**

As a grant-maker, we recognise that our role is to support and enable others to make the world a safer, fairer, and more sustainable place to live. In 2021, our grantee partners once again demonstrated great strength and resilience as they continued their work. We want our partners to know that we value tremendously the great work they do, especially given the current climate.

Throughout 2021, we provided more than 440 grants to 412 organisations in 41 countries. In addition, we provided USD 5 million in grants that were directly Covid-19-related. In total, Oak has granted USD 29 million in additional support to help organisations respond to the challenges of Covid-19 over the last two years. In addition, our regular grant-making has continued, and as we start a new year, we take time to reflect and celebrate our partners' accomplishments in 2021. A short outline of each programme is laid out below, and these, as well as this report, give insights into our partners' efforts. We hope their work generates as much joy for you as it does for us.

We were impressed by the strong presence of young people, Indigenous communities, and civil society groups at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow. A different story is now being written. With support from our Environment Programme, tenacious clean power and climate justice organisations have sharpened their strategies and tactics, especially to end the use of coal. By working alongside governments, addressing key players, and joining affected local communities on the frontline, the impact of their efforts is being felt.

Many of our Housing and Homelessness Programme's partners in the UK and the US have worked to ensure safe and secure homes for migrant communities, particularly refugees, asylum seekers, and those with uncertain immigration status. Our US-based partners provided legal and social services to low-income and at-risk migrants and refugees, in particular when the crisis in Afghanistan unfolded.

The International Human Rights Programme's partners have been encouraging civic activism by trying to stop repressive digital practices. This has been done by providing technical assistance and advice to civil society groups and activists, media organisations, journalists, bloggers, and human rights defenders. Our partners have also been working to prevent the software of civil society actors being hacked.

Partners of the Issues Affecting Women Programme have been supporting feminist tech activists across Brazil to provide digital security training for women human rights defenders. "Covid-19 made us think about technology and digital care in a different way. We reached more women and connected them, and they also lifted each other." In addition, Oak's partners launched a campaign to mobilise emergency aid that prioritised emergency evacuations and resettlement for Afghan women.

Several new partnerships of the Learning Differences Programme are helping to find solutions for weak reading instruction, especially for students furthest from opportunity. Our partners' work spans a range of approaches, from communications and advocacy, to school- and system-level support and closer school-family partnerships. "We know more than ever before about how to help children become strong readers."

Thanks to the partners of Oak's Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Programme, governments, civic organisations, and passionate activists are taking the issue of online child sexual abuse seriously. As a result, technology companies are redesigning their platforms so that child abuse is thwarted before it happens.

With our Special Interest Programme we are helping Native American communities in the American Southwest protect their land. Our support to the Hawaiian Community Foundation funds initiatives to: strengthen Hawaiian culture; protect the island's nearshore waters; and

provide young people who ordinarily would not attend college the chance to do so. In addition, our partners are defending the rights of immigrant children in US federal detention centres. In the UK, we are supporting staff of the Singing Medicine Programme to improve the wellbeing of sick children in hospitals through positive and inclusive interactive songs and singing games. We are also supporting the Moorfields Eve Hospital NHS Foundation Trust in London, the UK, by helping to create a new facility, purpose-built for the future, that will enable Moorfields to combine clinical care, education, and research.

In Zimbabwe, young adults are being trained to be after-school coding instructors. The average annual income of graduates has increased four to five times. The Brazil Programme has been supporting not-for-profit organisations and news outlets to improve the equity and overall tenor of public discourse. "How about we create a web of reliable information that is just as powerful as the disinformation networks?" In Denmark, hopes and dreams find a home at the Joanna House, a centre recently set up for young vulnerable people who find themselves in difficult situations. The India Programme's grant-making has been supporting efforts that lead to community-driven actions fostered by local leaders. "I believe it is time to recognise the role of natural leaders and community action in supporting children's protection and wellbeing."

We are proud of our foundation and our partnerships, and we hope that our support makes a difference in the lives of people. We look forward to continue working with our partners to build a positive future together.

#### **Trustees of Oak Foundation:**

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

## Our grant-making in 2021

During the 2021 calendar year, Oak Foundation's total net amount granted was USD 338.89 million. This figure includes 440 programme and special initiative grants, and discretionary grants, refunds, and cancellations. Overall, Oak provided programme and special initiative grants to 412 organisations based in 41 countries. The work of these organisations is carried out throughout the world. Not including the special initiative grants, the size of grants varied from approximately USD 40,000 to USD 10.3 million, with an average of USD 760,000.

We made

440

programme and special initiative grants to

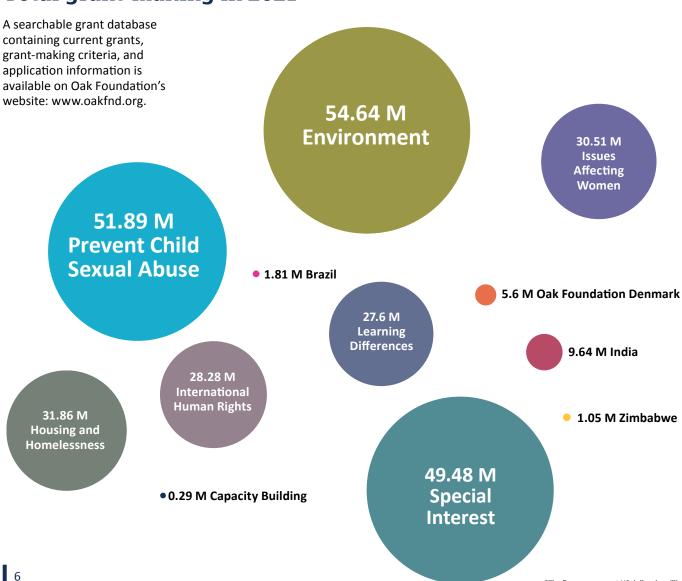
412

organisations in

41

countries.

### **Total grant-making in 2021\***



**292.65 M**Total programme grants

**14.84 M** Discretionary grants

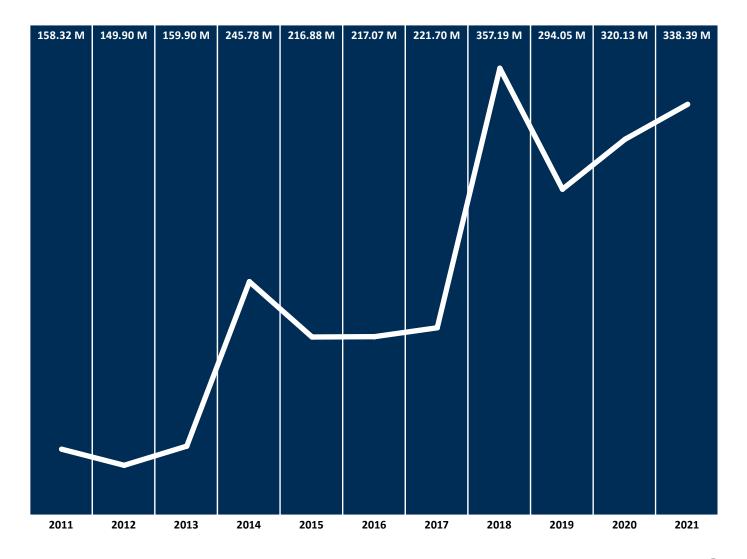
(2.43 M)
Refunds and cancellations

**305.06 M**Total regular grant-making

**33.83 M** special initiative grants

338.89 M Net amount granted

## **Total grant-making 2011-2021**



## Supporting our partners along the way

Alongside our grant funding, we strive to be purposeful, supportive partners. To this end, we work with our grantee partners to provide additional support if needed, such as: capacity building, to strengthen organisations in areas that regular grant-making doesn't cover; child safeguarding, in the interest of protecting children; monitoring and evaluation, to be able to better understand what works and what does not; and communications, to help ensure transparency around our grant-making, and elevate the great work of our partners. 2021 was a busy year for all of the teams working on these areas. Read on to find out more.

#### **Capacity Building**

In 2021, Oak established an Organisational Development Fund to allow our current grantee partners to have access to small pots of funding for capacity-building projects. These include projects that help our partners to develop good leadership and management skills, as well as fundraising and social media strategies, and projects that help our partners to develop policies and best practices for diversity, equity, and inclusion.

In addition, because we believe in the importance of exiting funding responsibly, we developed a 'capacitybuilding for exit' programme in Ethiopia. This was as our Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Programme was preparing to conclude its support to some of its partners in Ethiopia. We hope that it will help to leave our partners in Ethiopia more resilient and able to continue their work without our support. INTRAC, an organisation that works to strengthen civil society to challenge poverty and equality, worked with Ethiopian consultants, who implemented the programme, which included research on leadership transitions.

Following the training, staff from the various not-for-profit organisations shared how they felt clearer about the directions their organisations were going in. They have updated their strategic plans, or created new ones. Their finance systems now meet requirements, including the government's. In addition, some of the organisations have developed their own financial sustainability plans and have access to diverse funding sources. We hope that this programme will help to leave our partners in Ethiopia more resilient and able to continue their work without our support.

Oak also supported a training for 13 Board Chairs in the US and the UK in 2021. The aim of the programme was to foster an exchange of experiences and ideas around key concepts of good governance in times of uncertainty and transition. This training also responded to the general lack of investment in preparing Board members to play the role of chair effectively. Despite the importance of this role for an organisation, chairs are often appointed without necessarily knowing the specific responsibilities they are expected to perform.

We believe that trainings and support for capacity-building projects are essential for the strengthening and sustainability of organisations. We want our support to be more than simply funding. We also see the importance of strengthening the work of our partner organisations. If you are a partner of Oak Foundation, please speak to your programme officer to find out more about the support you can receive.

Please see page 52 of this report for our Capacity Building grant.

#### **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.

In 2021, we reviewed and updated the Oak Child Safeguarding Policy, highlighting Oak's continued commitment to implementing robust child safeguarding measures within the foundation as well as within our grant-making. The policy guides the work of our staff and details their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding. It also outlines expectations towards our grantee partners, which we have aimed to communicate clearly by also revising our safeguarding page on www.oakfnd.org and the online safeguarding self-audit form.

The online safeguarding self-audit form was launched in April 2021. By the end of the year, more than 200 partners had filled in the self-audit. This assessment helps Oak programme staff better understand how partners come into contact or work with children throughout the grant-cycle and demonstrates the safeguarding measures our partners have in place or need to develop. In addition, the system allows partners to request safeguarding support in case of shortcomings.

We are also working to build sector-wide support to strengthen child safeguarding policies. After months of close collaboration, in March 2021, we were proud to launch the Funder Safeguarding Collaborative (FSC). Founded by Oak Foundation, Comic Relief, Porticus, The National Lottery Community Fund, and Global Fund for Children, the collaborative aims to support and strengthen safeguarding practices globally by promoting collaboration, listening, and learning among funders and partner organisations. We are



excited to report that more than 50 funders heeded the call and have become members of the collaborative.

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

Please see page 52 of this report for our Child Safeguarding grant.

## Monitoring & evaluation

At Oak Foundation, we strive to maximise the impact of our grant-making. Using evidence and a reflective practice help us make better decisions and make better use of our resources.

During 2021, our programmes continued to: create spaces for reflection and intentional learning; and improve their ability to collect and use data. For the first time, we embarked on a three-year long developmental evaluation of seven campaigns, to help us learn as we go. Our programmes are increasingly commissioning external reviews to better understand the impact of the work we fund. We are also improving our internal portfolio tracking systems so we can have better visibility of the progress we are making in our strategies. At the same time, we have simplified our application and reporting forms, so that staff and partners spend less time on internal processes.

We believe in the power of collaboration and the need to build and share our collective knowledge. This is why, in 2021,

we worked closely with many of our intermediaries and partners to strengthen our collective ability to learn together and from each other. We are already seeing how this way of working is improving how we fund. It also helps us to be better partners to those with whom we share the same goals.

#### **Communications**

Good communication helps ensure transparency around our grant-making and elevates the voices of those who are the least heard. We believe that through good communications, we contribute to a better, safer, cleaner, fairer world.

In 2021, communications continued to play a central role in Oak's operations. Many staff members had to work from home periodically because of Covid-19 related restrictions. Because of this, we have paid close attention to our internal communications in order to help staff feel connected and able to work efficiently from a distance.

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 their efforts to make the world a fairer, safer place. It is our honour to be able to raise the voices of the people that benefit from the great work of our partners being carried out around the world.

In addition, the Communications team helped bring to life the new Environment Programme strategy, which focuses on safeguarding our future by restoring our connection to nature, and changing the ways we feed and fuel our world. We also supported the India Programme to showcase its new strategy, which

seeks systemic changes at the state and national levels so that all people have a chance to thrive.

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

Oak's main communications channels are its website, newsletters, and annual reports, as well as through social media channels Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram. Please follow us and check out our stories page on www.oakfnd.org/stories! We love to hear success stories from our partners so please reach out to the Communications team at <a href="mailto:commdept@oakfnd.org">commdept@oakfnd.org</a> and we will be happy to share. We are also open to feedback — so please let us know how we can improve our communications.



## Oak's grant-making in Switzerland over the years

Oak Foundation's main administrative office is in Geneva, Switzerland. We are proud to be here in the human rights capital of the world, among hundreds of not-for-profit organisations, UN organisations, and foundations, all striving to make the world a better, safer, cleaner, fairer place. Oak chose Switzerland for its main administrative office because of its stable and predictable legal, political, and economic system. Switzerland's regulations on charities are clear and support the belief that democratic societies depend on the active participation of civil society organisations. In addition, there is a high concentration of knowledge and expertise in Geneva, which makes recruiting staff easy.

Throughout the decades, and through our various programmes, we have made many grants in Switzerland. Our International Human Rights Programme (IHRP) supports Geneva-based organisations that work with UN mechanisms, such as the International Commission of Jurists, the Global Detention Project, and Huridocs. These partners engage in advocacy, research, and capacity building, with both UN bodies and civil society organisations working in Geneva and elsewhere. We are conscious of the important role that Geneva continues to play in the global human rights movement. The IHRP also supports not-for-profit organisations Civitas and Trial, which use Switzerland's favourable framework for the prosecution of perpetrators of gross human rights abuses to end impunity for crimes. These cases are pursued through local Swiss courts.

Our Issues Affecting Women Programme (IAWP) began grant-making in Switzerland 16 years ago, and currently funds ten organisations across the country. Many of these organisations are located in the French-speaking cantons. We work to strengthen women's rights and the women's movement in Switzerland more broadly. Current grant-

making focuses on service providers that are working to end trafficking, exploitation, and domestic violence, including psychological abuse. We are expanding grantmaking to include a focus on helping migrant women integrate into Swiss society.

Several of the partners of our Environment Programme (EP) are also based in Switzerland, such as WWF International. As a leading conservation organisation, WWF works in nearly 100 countries, collaborating with people around the world to develop and deliver innovative solutions that protect communities, wildlife, and the places where they live. In addition, the Swiss Philanthropy Foundation is the main fiscal vehicle for the EP's new, experimental campaign portfolios that aim to support grassroots organisations globally. Through our Special Interest Programme, we support environmental organisation swisscleantech, a not-for-profit organisation that works to promote a sustainable economy in Switzerland through technical innovation, and a more sustainable and liberal economy.

Our Special Interest Programme also supports several not-for-profit organisations in Switzerland. These include: Entraide Protestant Suisse (EPER), which supports and provides services to migrants in Geneva; Association Savoir Patient, which strives to improve care and the quality of life of breast cancer patients; Fondation MalleyPrairie, which helps victims of domestic violence; and Fondation Partage, a foodbank that helps fight against food waste, and distributes food and hygiene products across the city of Geneva, reaching thousands in need each week. In addition, we are proud to support the well-known and longstanding humanitarian organisations Médecins Sans Frontières and Terre des Hommes, which work hard to respond to humanitarian crises around the world, including, most recently, the Covid-19 pandemic.

Through the Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Programme (Prevent CSA), our funding in Switzerland has focused on the promotion of positive gender norms. To this end, we support 2e Observatoire, which provides Swiss early childcare professionals and primary school teachers with guidelines to interact in gender-neutral ways with young children, and Männer.ch, which offers counselling and training services to men and fathers. In addition, we want for all adolescents in the country, in all their diversity, to participate fully in every aspect of life, which includes being able to express their gender identities and sexual orientation. To this end, we support organisations such as: the Swiss National Youth Council, for its work to better integrate LGBTQI communities into youth associations; Dialogai, for its Le Refuge project, which offers counselling and support to LGBTQI communities; and Radix, for the national implementation and scale-up of its Sortir Ensemble Et Se Respecter project, which helps young people learn how to resolve conflicts in their romantic relationships without resorting to violence. Going forward, the Prevent CSA plans to work with a regranting organisation focused on the empowerment of LGBTQI youth. We will fund various organisations working to include LGBTQI youth involvement, campaigning, coalition building, community organising, and organisational development and capacity building.

We are proud of our grant-making in Switzerland. The list of grants to Swiss-based organisations for more than USD 50,000 that were active at some point in 2021 are listed on pages 14-15 of this report. In addition to these, our Trustees and Swiss-based staff made numerous discretionary grants to local organisations. From 1997 to 2021, the total amount of grants to Swiss-based organisations is USD 166.6 million (CHF 161.7 million).



## Les subventions accordées par Oak en Suisse au fil des années

La Fondation Oak, dont le siège administratif est à Genève en Suisse, est fière de travailler au cœur de la capitale mondiale des droits humains, aux côtés de centaines d'organisations sans but lucratif, d'agences des Nations Unies et de fondations, qui toutes s'emploient à faire de notre planète un monde meilleur, plus sûr, plus propre et plus juste. Nous avons choisi la Suisse pour la stabilité et la prévisibilité de son système juridique, politique et économique. Son cadre réglementaire qui régit les organisations caritatives est clair et soutient l'idée selon laquelle les sociétés démocratiques reposent sur la participation active des organisations de la société civile. De plus, Genève concentre un important vivier de savoirs et d'expertise, ce qui facilite le recrutement de collaboratrices et collaborateurs.

Au fil des décennies, nous avons accordé de nombreuses subventions en Suisse, à travers nos différents programmes.

Ainsi, notre programme international pour les droits humains (International Human Rights Programme - IHRP) apporte son soutien à des organisations travaillant à Genève avec les mécanismes onusiens tels que la Commission internationale des juristes, le Global Detention Project et Huridocs. Ces partenaires mènent des activités de plaidoyer, de recherche et de renforcement des capacités, tant avec des agences des Nations Unies qu'avec des organisations de la société civile actives à Genève et ailleurs. De plus, nous avons conscience du rôle important que Genève continue de jouer au sein du mouvement mondial en faveur des droits humains. C'est pourquoi le programme IHRP soutient aussi Civitas et Trial. Ces deux organisations sans but lucratif s'appuient sur le cadre favorable qu'offre la Suisse pour poursuivre des auteurs de violations flagrantes des droits humains afin de mettre un terme à l'impunité de leurs crimes. Ces cas sont poursuivis devant les tribunaux locaux suisses.

Actif depuis 16 ans en Suisse, notre programme sur les questions touchant aux femmes (Issues Affecting Women Programme – IAWP) finance actuellement 10 organisations dans le pays, dont beaucoup en Suisse romande. Nous travaillons au renforcement des droits des femmes et,

plus largement, des mouvements féministes en Suisse. Actuellement, nos subventions se concentrent sur les prestataires de services qui s'emploient à lutter contre la traite, l'exploitation et la violence intrafamiliale, y compris psychologique. Par ailleurs, nous élargissons notre politique de financement pour aider les femmes migrantes à s'intégrer dans la société suisse.

Plusieurs partenaires de notre programme environnement (Environment Programme – EP) sont également basés en Suisse, comme le WWF International. Cette organisation de premier plan de la protection de la nature travaille dans près de 100 pays. Elle conçoit et met en œuvre, en collaboration avec les populations à travers le monde, des solutions innovantes pour protéger les communautés, la flore et la faune sauvages et leurs milieux de vie. De plus, la Swiss Philanthropy Foundation est le principal levier fiscal des nouveaux portefeuilles de campagne expérimentaux du programme EP qui visent à soutenir les organisations communautaires dans le monde. Et, à travers notre programme d'intérêt spécifique (Special Interest Programme), nous soutenons Swisscleantech, une organisation environnementale sans but lucratif qui s'emploie à promouvoir une économie soutenable en Suisse grâce à l'innovation technique, et une économie plus durable et libérale.

Notre programme d'intérêt spécifique soutient également plusieurs organisations sans but lucratif en Suisse. Parmi celles-ci: l'Entraide protestante suisse (EPER) aide et fournit des services aux populations migrantes à Genève; l'Association Savoir Patient s'emploie à améliorer les soins et la qualité de vie des personnes souffrant de cancer du sein; la Fondation MalleyPrairie aide les victimes de violence intrafamiliale; et la Fondation Partage, une banque alimentaire, soutient la lutte contre le gaspillage alimentaire et distribue de la nourriture et des produits d'hygiène à des milliers de personnes chaque semaine en Ville de Genève. Par ailleurs, Oak est fière de soutenir Médecins Sans Frontières et Terre des Hommes, deux organisations connues qui répondent depuis de nombreuses années aux crises humanitaires dans le monde, y compris la récente pandémie de Covid-19.

À travers le programme de prévention des abus sexuels chez l'enfant (Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Programme -Prevent CSA), nos financements mettent l'accent sur la promotion de normes positives en matière de genre. À cet effet, nous soutenons Le deuxième Observatoire qui fournit aux institutions de la petite enfance et au corps enseignant du primaire des guides d'interaction non-sexiste avec les jeunes enfants. Nous soutenons aussi Männer.ch qui offre un soutien psychosocial et des formations aux hommes et aux pères. De plus, nous voulons que l'ensemble des adolescentes et adolescents du pays participent pleinement et dans toute leur diversité à toutes les facettes de la vie, donc que ces jeunes puissent exprimer leur identité de genre et leur orientation sexuelle. C'est pourquoi nous soutenons des organisations telles que le Conseil suisse des activités de jeunesse (CSAJ) dont le travail vise une meilleure intégration des communautés LGBTQI dans les associations de jeunes, Dialogai et son projet Le Refuge qui offre un soutien psychosocial aux communautés LGBTQI, ainsi que Radix qui met en œuvre et développe au niveau national le projet «Sortir ensemble et se respecter» pour apprendre aux jeunes comment gérer les conflits dans les relations amoureuses sans recourir à la violence. À l'avenir, le programme Prevent CSA envisage de travailler avec une organisation de subventionnement axée sur l'empouvoirement des jeunes LGBTQI. Nous financerons des organisations qui s'efforcent d'inclure la participation des jeunes LGBTQI, le plaidoyer, la création de coalitions, l'organisation communautaire, le développement organisationnel et le renforcement des capacités.

Oak est fière de sa politique de subventionnement en Suisse. La liste des subventions de plus de USD 50'000 que nous avons accordées à des organisations basées en Suisse et actives à un moment donné en 2021 figure dans les pages de ce rapport. En outre, les membres de notre Conseil d'administration et nos équipes en Suisse ont octroyé de nombreuses subventions discrétionnaires à des organisations locales. De 1997 à 2021, le montant total des dons destinés aux organisations basées en Suisse se monte à USD 166.6 million, soit CHF 161.7 million.



#### **Grants**

Grants to Swiss-based organisations for more than USD 50,000 that were active at some point in 2021 are listed below. Oak staff and Trustees also provide numerous discretionary grants to various Swiss-based organisations regularly. From 1997 to 2021, the total amount of grants to Swiss-based organisations is USD 166.6 million (CHF 161.7 million).

#### Aide aux Victimes de Violence en Couple (AVVEC) USD 460,000 (3 years)

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

#### alliance F USD 300,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to alliance F to achieve gender equality in society, the economy, and politics in Switzerland.

#### Antenna MayDay USD 227,822 (3 years)

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

#### Association des Mediatrices Interculturelles (AMIC) USD 300,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to AMIC, a Swiss organisation that supports migrant and refugee families in their social and economic integration in Geneva, Switzerland.

## Association ViolenceQueFaire USD 322,772 (3 years)

To provide core support to Association Violence Que Faire to continue to offer its services throughout the French-speaking part of Switzerland and run a psychological violence prevention campaign.

#### Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance USD 250,000 (2 years)

To provide core support to the BICE to prevent child sexual abuse and to provide child victims with multidisciplinary support in Latin America and Europe-CIS.

#### Centre Social Protestant (CSP) USD 401,679 (3 years)

To support the CSP's continued operation of its helpline for victims of human trafficking in the canton of Geneva, Switzerland.

## Child Rights Connect USD 445,545 (4 years)

To provide core support to Child Rights Connect, a global children's rights network.

#### Civitas Maxima USD 700,000 (3 years)

To gather evidence on serious crimes and pursue accountability on behalf of victims, both nationally and internationally.

## Education familiale USD 247,503 (5 years)

To strengthen the educational skills of parents and early childhood professionals in the French-speaking part of Switzerland on educating small children on sexuality.

## Fondation Foyer-Handicap USD 1,000,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to Fondation Foyer-Handicap, in Geneva, Switzerland, to promote the full integration of people with physical disabilities into society.

## Fondation Pro Juventute USD 404,610 (5 years)

To support Pro Juventute to develop Swiss national standards for child safeguarding for the leisure and sport associations.

## Global Detention Project USD 250,000 (2 years)

To ensure that asylum seekers, undocumented migrants and refugees are treated with dignity and respect when in official custody.

## Graduate Institute Geneva

To support Oak Foundation's internship programme at its Geneva office.

#### HURIDOCS USD 659,341 (3 years)

To provide technology solutions that enable human rights organisations to grow globally, in particular by increasing income from paid services and products.

## ICCA Consortium USD 1,035,455 (4 years)

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

## International Commission of Jurists USD 100,000 (1 year)

To launch a fundraising drive to build a local and international constituency.

#### International Network of Civil Liberties Organisations (INCLO) USD 350,000 (3 years)

To protect fundamental guarantees with respect to social protest, privacy rights, religious freedom and civic activism.

#### International Network of Civil Liberties Organisations (INCLO) USD 600,000 (4 years)

To protect fundamental guarantees with respect to social protest, privacy rights, religious freedom, and civic activism.

#### männer.ch USD 785,446 (3 years)

To continue the national MenCare programme in Switzerland to change social norms by engaging men in gender equality and increasing men's participation and responsibility in children's lives.

## Martin Ennals Foundation USD 100,000 (1 year)

To offer coaching to facilitate the professional and personal growth of human rights defenders and catalyse collaboration around common themes.

#### Medecins Sans Frontieres Suisse (MSF Switzerland) USD 400,000 (1 year)

To support Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in its global response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and specifically its response in Zimbabwe.

## Oak Hill School Foundation USD 2,272,727 (8 years)

To provide core support to Oak Hill School so that it can continue to offer a half-day programme to students with diagnosed learning differences such as dyslexia and/or attention deficit disorders, who are struggling in mainstream classrooms in and around Geneva, Switzerland.

#### Organisation Mondiale Contre la Torture USD 594,059 (4 years)

To strengthen OMCT's communications and network capacity and increase the effectiveness, visibility and reach of its advocacy in the fight against torture.

#### Organisation Mondiale Contre la Torture USD 1,098,901 (4 years)

To strengthen OMCT's communications and network capacity, and increase the effectiveness, visibility, and reach of its advocacy in the fight against torture.

#### RADIX Fondation Suisse pour la promotion de la santé USD 764,350 (3 years)

To support Radix to implement a national project which encourages adolescents to acquire positive life skills and to achieve healthy dating relationships.

#### Rainbow Spot USD 109,893 (1 year)

To strengthen LGBTQI migrants' access to relevant information regarding the rights and services available to them in Switzerland. This grant also aims to support Rainbow Spot to strengthen migrants' inclusion, autonomy, and physical, psychological, and sexual integrity.

#### Santé Sexuelle Suisse USD 666,464 (3 years)

To advocate for the implementation of comprehensive sexuality education in schools in Switzerland

## Save the Children Schweiz USD 250,000 (3 years)

To prevent and tackle online child sexual abuse and exploitation by supporting the governments and communities in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

#### Sentience Politics (CH) USD 250,000 (2 years)

To ban factory farming in Switzerland, and raise the minimum welfare standards to those currently required in organic farming.

### Swiss Philanthropy Foundation USD 10,000,000 (8 years)

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

## Swiss Philanthropy Foundation USD 200,000 (2 years)

To provide small grants to existing Issues Affecting Women Programme grantee partners to improve the effectiveness and impact of women-led organisations to end violence against women and girls and advance their rights.

## Swiss Philanthropy Foundation USD 3,550,119 (3 years)

To provide core support to the European Environment and Health Initiative to improve EU policies on endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) by strengthening civil society engagement.

## Swiss Philanthropy Foundation USD 259,825 (1 year)

To provide small grants to existing Oak LDP grantee partners with the aim of improving the effectiveness and impact of these not-for-profit organisations.

## Swiss Philanthropy Foundation USD 1,130,000 (3 years)

To provide core and project support to four early childhood development regional networks in Africa, Asia, and the Arab world to integrate a gender-transformative approach focused on positively engaging men in their children's lives.

## swisscleantech USD 2,161,616 (3.5 years)

To provide core support to Swisscleantech to conduct business advocacy in Switzerland focused on sustainable development.

#### swisscleantech USD 1,000,000 (2 years)

To provide core support to swisscleantech to promote a sustainable economy in Switzerland.

#### Terre des Femmes Switzerland (TDF) USD 303,030 (3 years)

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

#### Terre des Hommes International Federation USD 499,699 (3 years)

To provide support to the Children Win Campaign, which promotes child rights in the bidding processes of sporting organisers, and to the Destination Unknown Campaign, which works to protect children on the move.

## Terre des hommes Lausanne USD 497,367 (4 years)

To ensure that children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation and trafficking have access to appropriate psychosocial and economic reintegration opportunities.

## Terre des hommes Lausanne USD 200,000 (1 year)

To assist with the Covid-19 response in India with a focus on nutrition and livelihood support in West Bengal.

#### Tier im Recht USD 198,020 (3 years)

To improve wildlife crime law in German-speaking European countries and to establish a global hub for legal expertise around protecting wildlife.

#### The UNI Global Union World Players Association USD 250,000 (3 years)

To carry out a survey of professional athletes about how their rights were promoted or violated as children in organised sport.

#### The UNI Global Union World Players Association USD 249,042 (2 years)

To support the Sport and Rights Alliance, a coalition of leading global organisations which are working together on human rights, labour rights, children's rights, anti-corruption and sustainability in sport.

## Women at the Table USD 200,000 (3 years)

To support women's rights activists to gain influence in the application of artificial intelligence that touch every aspect of life - including governance, democracy, the economy, sustainability, and technology.

#### Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) USD 900,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to WILPF. This will support local women's organisations to access financial and technical support and to mobilise for peace, equality, justice, and human security

## WWF International USD 150,000 (2 years)

To support the establishment and operationalisation of the Global Climate Action Initiative, which promotes the implementation of the Paris Agreement and green development, especially in developing countries.

## WWF International USD 150,000 (3 years)

To eliminate illegal fishing in the Korean fishing industry and instead promote transparent, sustainable fisheries.

## WWF International USD 868,197 (3 years)

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

## WWF International USD 985,000 (3.5 years)

To facilitate the development of an international movement of communities, civil society organisations, and relevant institutions to accelerate and scale coastal community-led conservation efforts.

## Discretionary grants:

Aide aux Victimes de Violence en Couple (AVVEC) USD 50,000

Association Alter Ego USD 50,000

Association de Proches Aidants USD 50,000

Association Nai Qala USD 50,000

Association pour le Bateau Geneve USD 100,000

B8 of Hope USD 50,000 BirdLife Schweiz (Schweizer Vogelschutz (SVS) Verband für Vogel & Naturschutz) USD 50,000

Caravane Sans Frontieres USD 50,000

Centre de la Roseraie -Fondation les réfugiés d'hier accueillent les réfugiés d'aujourd'hui USD 50,000

Centre LAVI USD 50,000

Centre Social Protestant (CSP) USD 50,000

Fondation Colis du Coeur USD 50,000

Fondation en Faveur de l'Art Chorégraphique (Prix de Lausanne) USD 50,000

Foyer Arabelle USD 50,000

Heart for India Foundation USD 50,000

Holy Trinity Church Geneva USD 50,000

Hope of the Babies International USD 50,000

Impact Switzerland USD 50.000

Schweizerischer Fischerei-Verband (Swiss Fishing Federation) USD 50,000

SOS Femmes USD 50,000

Swiss Philanthropy Circle USD 54,945

Willow Association USD 230,000

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) USD 50,000

Zoi Environment Network USD 50,000



## **Environment**

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

In 2021, our Environment Programme's strategy evolved from a sectoral approach, which focused on climate, marine, and wildlife, trade and conservation, to a global systems transformation approach. We now focus on three systems that present the greatest transformative opportunities: Energy, Food, and Natural Security. We believe that each of these systems is vital to our future as a human species and the global commons upon which we all depend.

We also welcomed Masego Madzwamuse as our new director, who believes as passionately as we do in the need to build a greener future because it is for the benefit of all of us.

Together with our partners, other funders, business, and political leaders, we believe that we can revive the planet's health for the future. We hope that this strategy will offer us a roadmap to support our partners in their efforts to build a thriving and healthy future for all people and wildlife.

In this year's annual report, we have chosen to focus on Energy. Recognising the need to cut fossil fuel use in half by 2030 and to zero by 2050, we support organisations and diverse movements working to accelerate this transition. We hope you enjoy reading about their successes as much as we do.

## Why we're winning the war on coal

Norbert Winzen's family has been living on a farm in the village of Keyenberg, Germany, for generations. Keyenberg is close to the enormous Garzweiler coalmine, which took its name from the town that once stood there. At one point the mine was 30 kilometres away from Keyenberg village, but now, as the coalmine expands, it is eating into the town limits, not far from the Winzen family farm. "It's the biggest hole in Germany," says Norbert.

In 2016, Norbert and his large family, as well as the entire village of Keyenberg, were offered payment to leave their homes. The Garzweiler mine wanted access to the coal beneath the village. The company offered the family a piece of land elsewhere, a fraction of the size of their current home, along with money as compensation for their land. In terms of quality of life, Norbert saw this as poor compensation, but was afraid that if he did not come to an agreement, his family would be removed from their property by force.

Norbert and his family would certainly have moved by now, if it wasn't for the efforts of community members and not-for-profit organisations working behind the scenes in solidarity with the residents of Keyenberg and other villages in the same predicament.

Indeed, the struggle to end the age of coal has been a David versus Goliath battle, and this is one of many stories of how local communities are being displaced by coalmines, the most polluting form of energy. In the decades-long work to stop coal from

being the dominant source of global energy, many families have lost their loved ones due to the choking effects of pollution. Miners, who have worked perilously underground, have been killed in explosions, drinking water has been poisoned, and communities on the frontline of the climate emergency have been forced from their homes due to global warming, which coal burning has contributed to.

Following the historic Paris agreement in 2016, one of its architects and chief UN executives, Christiana Figueres, was asked to describe the biggest obstacle to safeguarding our climate future. She replied quite categorially: "It's without question, coal." In the years since the Paris agreement, Oak Foundation has committed to supporting organisations working to stop new coal plants being built and switch off existing ones. Addressing these goals is a vital step to safeguarding our fragile climate and cleaning up the air we breathe. Tenacious clean power and climate justice organisations have sharpened their strategies and tactics. They are working alongside governments, addressing key players in the industry, telling inspiring stories, and most importantly, joining affected local communities on the frontline. Those like Norbert.1

And, they are having an impact.

For example, in April 2021, the climate community passed a critical milestone. Half of all 324 coal plants in Europe had been either closed, or had announced a retirement date before 2030. This monumental feat has occurred largely as a result of the







#### Captions:

(1) Norbert Winzen, whose family has finally, after a long battle, been able to keep their farm near the Garzweiler coalmine.
(2) The Garzweiler coalmine, Germany.
(3), (4), (5): Renewable energy such as from wind turbine and solar panel farms can offer a way out of polluting, coal-fired energy plants.

References: Please see page 66 of this report.



strong, vibrant, and well-coordinated community of people and organisations that Oak supports through the Europe Beyond Coal campaign. In addition, in 2020, renewables generated 38 per cent of Europe's electricity<sup>2</sup>, overtaking coal and gas to become the main source of electricity for the first time ever on the continent. Europe's actions are a huge step toward a clean energy future, as companies and governments make the transition away from fossil fuel-based energy sources.

"It was awe-inspiring throughout COP to hear leaders discuss phase-out with a passion and energy that I've never seen before. The momentum has reached a new gear."

#### **Dave Jones**

In May 2021, another major victory for clean air came into force when the International Energy Agency declared that in order to limit global heating to 1.5 Celsius, we must end all new investments in coal. China, the world's largest user and funder of coal power globally, then made a gamechanging commitment to 'stop building new coal-fired power projects abroad'. This effectively ended any plans for any new coal plants across Southeast Asia and the rest of the world. At the same time, China declared it will finance clean energy projects instead – a decision that overnight redirected approximately USD 40 billion of investment towards tackling the climate emergency.

At the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow that took place in November 2021, there was also reason to hope. One of the first pieces of good news received was South Africa's announcement that it had secured commitments for USD 8.5 billion in financing over the next five years from the United States and the European Union to help install more clean energy. That means that South Africa will accelerate its transition away from coal, while supporting workers who will be affected by the shift. "This is a hugely significant and advanced just

transition package," says Masego Madzwamuse, director of Oak's Environment Programme. "It demonstrates the 'power of the possible' for North-South cooperation and collaboration."

"The net is closing in on fossil fuels, and coal is at the frontline," says Dave Jones from the energy analyst group Ember. "It was awe-inspiring throughout COP to hear leaders discuss coal phase-out with a passion and energy that I've never seen before. The momentum has reached a new gear."

As the conference centre emptied, attention turned to Germany. The current political ambition of ending coal use by 2038 falls well short of what the science demands, and a new target of phasing out coal by 2030 is being considered. This sits alongside a commitment to power 80 per cent of the German economy with clean power by the end of the decade. If delivered, the odds will shift in the favour of people and planet. And, the residents of Keyenberg will be able to stay in their homes.

When the Europe Beyond Coal team visited Norbert at his farm all those years ago, he had little chance of keeping his home. Today, his family home looks safe, and Germany has a chance to once again become a leader in driving climate action.

"Each and every step towards ending coal use has started with a local community member wanting to safeguard the future of their home, their family, or their neighbour," says Nathan Argent, head of Oak's Climate Change Subprogramme. "Each and every action creates a connection, which builds a vibrant and diverse movement. This is why Oak does what it does."

While there is still work to be done, the victory for our safe climate future has never been closer. This is thanks to the strong, vibrant, and well-coordinated community of organisations and people that have come together under a single objective: to build a cleaner, safer future for us all. Oak is grateful to its partners working to safeguard our future, by restoring our connection to nature, and changing the ways we feed and fuel our world.

References: Please see page 66 of this report.

#### **Grants**

#### **Energy**

#### American Friends of Edelgive Foundation USD 300,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to the India Climate Collaborative and scale up its climate work in India.

## Carbon Disclosure Project USD 300,000 (3 years)

To support financial and private sectors to move towards a clean, safe, and equitable energy system globally.

#### Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) USD 508,611 (2 years)

To provide core support to CSTEP to carry out independent, high-quality and timely research on key climate and energy policy reforms in India.

## ClimateWorks Foundation, USA USD 1,000,000 (3 years)

To support the Clean Cooling Collaborative to promote efficient, climate-friendly, and affordable cooling for all.

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

#### USD 289,000 (2 years)

To support the development of the Wir Haben Es Satt coalition to win support for and influence decisions towards a reduction and improvement in the production and consumption of meat and dairy products.

## European Climate Foundation USD 350,000 (20 months)

To support Carbon Brief (via ECF), which specialises in providing clear, data-driven articles and graphics to help improve the understanding of climate change.

## The Energy Foundation USD 1.000.000 (2 years)

To mobilise public participation in driving clean and equitable transformation in China.

## Environmental Defense Inc USD 400,000 (2 years)

To support the government in its goal to reduce the negative impact of the natural gas industry on the climate and human health in China.

## European Climate Foundation USD 5,000,000 (3 years)

To support ECF to accelerate the transition to clean power in Europe.

#### European Federation for Transport and Environment T&E USD 1,607,143 (3 years)

To reduce Europe's dependency on oil by accelerating the uptake of electric vehicles and other clean transport solutions.

#### Give2Asia

#### USD 100,001 (1 year)

To support the greening E-Commerce platform in China.

## Green New Deal UK USD 380,396 (3 years)

To support efforts to build a social movement that creates and maintains the conditions required to deliver and sustain a Green New Deal in the United Kingdom.

## Instituto Clima e Sociedade USD 5,400,000 (3 years)

To support work towards a carbon-neutral Brazil.

#### International Institute for Environment and Development USD 250,000 (1 year)

To define a new social contract that will enable a fair, green, and systemic economic transition and recovery globally.

#### New Venture Fund USD 500,000 (1 year)

To help India transition towards a low-carbon sustainable economy by 2050.

### Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, Inc.

#### USD 200,000 (1 year)

To support the Urban Movement Innovation Fund.

## Rocky Mountain Institute USD 450,000 (2 years)

To support provincial carbon neutrality roadmap development.

#### Securing America's Future Energy

#### USD 600,000 (3 years)

To support the Commission on the Future of Mobility to ensure that future mobility is built around people, enabled by technology, and which re-centres transportation as a basic human right.

## Swiss Philanthropy Foundation USD 6,144,498 (1 year)

To provide support to the Swiss Philanthropy Foundation, which will direct funding towards agile, tactical organisations working to tackle the most pressing environmental challenges of our time.

## The Sunrise Project USD 1,000,000 (2 years)

To support grassroots groups in key financial capitals to drive the transition to renewable energy.

#### World Resources Institute USD 500,000 (2 years)

To drive systemic change in China's financial sector to shift investments from high-carbon assets towards climate solutions.

## World Resources Institute USD 850,000 (1 year)

To promote a heathy and sustainable food system in China by piloting initiatives and building momentum to embrace sustainable lifestyles and livelihoods.

#### **Food**

#### Associação Rare do Brasil USD 766,577 (3 years)

To develop a replicable fisheries management governance model in Pará state, Brazil.

#### Center for International Environmental Law, Inc. USD 1,500,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to help address climate change, plastic pollution, and global biodiversity loss.

## Conservation International USD 600,000 (3 years)

To create positive social and environmental outcomes by carrying out research on distant water fishing vessels in the eastern Pacific, the western central Pacific Ocean, and the Gulf of Guinea.

## Duke University USD 500,000 (2 years)

To strengthen the importance and role of small-scale fisheries worldwide.

## Ellen MacArthur Foundation USD 500,000 (2 years)

To provide core support to Ellen MacArthur Foundation.

## Environmental Defense Inc USD 350,000 (2 years)

To accelerate and expand the adoption of community-led solutions for climate-resilient small-scale fisheries.

## Environment Funders Canada USD 916,299 (3 years)

To support Indigenous-led conservation, governance, and stewardship as key avenues for promoting food security and community wellbeing on all three of Canada's coasts, and particularly in the Arctic.

## Environmental Law Institute USD 250,000 (2 years)

To empower women in the small-scale fishing sector in Mozambique and South Africa through training, education, and support.

#### Feedback UK USD 446,384 (2 years)

To enable a shift in the food retail sector's policy and practice in the UK and EU to support reduced at-home meat and dairy consumption by at least 50 per cent by 2030.

#### Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) USD 2,450,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to GAIA for its global work to prevent plastic pollution crisis and toxic waste.

## Global Fishing Watch USD 900,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to Global Fishing Watch for its work to share data publicly, and for free, to promote international cooperation and enable a new era of ocean governance where transparency is the norm.

## Health of Mother Earth Foundation

#### USD 500,000 (5 years)

To strengthen a broad network of fishers, processors, and sellers in Nigeria and other parts of Africa.

#### Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) US USD 500,000 (2 years)

To help reduce the production and consumption of plastic in China through a pilot project that aims to cut plastic demand.



## Meridian Institute USD 275,000 (2 years)

To support the Global Alliance for the Future of Food to achieve healthy, sustainable, and equitable food systems.

#### Multiplier

#### USD 100,000 (1 year)

To foster new and ambitious ways to unlock and accelerate change in the seafood sector.

## Oceano Azul Foundation USD 446,429 (3 years)

To support Oceano Azul to build momentum for the protection of oceans and elevate the issue on the global decision-making agenda.

## Pacific Environment USD 961,000 (3 years)

To support China and Vietnam to be global leaders in reducing plastic pollution.

#### Regional Partnership for Coastal and Marine Conservation in West Africa USD 504,386 (3 years)

To strengthen local fishing communities in Senegal and protect artisanal fisheries from threats posed by distant water fleets.

#### Sustain

#### USD 376,000 (2 years)

To support Sustain to increase the momentum among UK Local Authorities for action plans that meet standards on food-related climate emissions.

## World Resources Institute USD 350,000 (2 years)

To rapidly accelerate the adoption of plant-rich climate friendly diets in the food service industry.

## Yilan Migrant Fishermen Union USD 322,326 (3 years)

To improve policy and legislation that protect the rights of migrant fishers who work on distant water fleets.

#### **Natural Security**

#### Conservative Environment Network

#### USD 133,700 (1 year)

To highlight the importance of biodiversity in relevant debates and to link the nature agenda with economic and public health arguments post-Covid-19.

#### **Elephants Alive**

#### USD 300,000 (4 years)

To ensure the survival of elephants and their habitats, and to develop and scale conflict mitigation approaches between humans and elephants.

#### Frankfurt Zoological Society - Germany USD 942,348 (3 years)

To diversify economic opportunities and revenue sources while increasing employment for local communities in North Luangwa, Zambia.

## Indalo Eswatini USD 100,000 (2 years)

To bring together Eswatini's dynamic conservation and development community as well as local community representatives in the Lubombo Biosphere Reserve

#### Institute for Poverty, Land & Agrarian Studies USD 1,434,038 (3 years)

To establish a methodology rooted in local realities for co-creating, disseminating, and communicating socio-ecological evidence that supports growing networks seeking to transform conservation.

## International Wildlife Trust USD 100,000 (1 year)

To submit memoranda to the US Department of Justice and the US Treasury Department for combating the illegal wildlife trade.

## Rhizome Insights USD 1,655,000 (2 years)

To consolidate an information ecosystem and develop specialist capacities that protect wildlife and improve conservation efforts.

## Time + Tide Foundation USD 980,000 (3 years)

To provide core support for activities that strengthen civil societies in Zambia and Madagascar.

## Wilderness Foundation USD 420,899 (3 years)

To help support the development of sustainable use and livelihoods policy in South Africa and its passage into law, through engaging civil society and capacity building.

#### Wildlife Asia

#### USD 2,310,000 (3 years)

To protect landscapes and wildlife in Southeast Asia by implementing direct wildlife and habitat protection strategies across 2,000,000 hectares of habitat.

## Wildlife Conservation Society USD 1,425,000 (3 years)

To establish national policies and legislative reforms in targeted countries in Asia to prohibit the commercial trade of wild birds and mammals for human consumption, and to assure effective counter-wildlife trafficking measures are in place.

#### Wildlife Crime Prevention

#### USD 4,199,845 (4 years)

To stabilise efforts in southern Africa to combat illegal wildlife trade, encourage increased coordination between key countries, and consolidate support for core activities that span the region.



## Housing and Homelessness

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

Oak's Housing and Homelessness Programme believes in a society where more people live in decent homes and fewer people experience homelessness and housing insecurity.

This means challenging systems that cause homelessness and enabling strategies that create more housing opportunities for everyone. We believe in building greater power within communities and organisations that work most closely with people, strengthening their collective capacity to achieve change. Our grant-making seeks out organisations that are developing ambitious strategies,

shaped by people with lived experience and rooted in robust evidence.

In our 2022-2027 strategy, we have revised our priority themes to: Renter rights; Supply and access to genuinely affordable and decent homes; and Reduction and prevention of homelessness. We continue to fund in the US and the UK. This year's theme article focuses on transforming housing systems to be fairer through a racial justice lens.

# Transforming housing systems – equality, justice, and fairness for all

In 2021, as the global impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has persisted, many of our grantee partners across the UK and the US have focused on ensuring safe and secure homes for migrant communities, particularly for those who are undocumented, such as refugees, asylum seekers, and those with uncertain immigration status.

Sayeda was one of these people. Escaping an abusive marriage, the local council in East London and other service providers refused to provide her support. Because her visa was attached to her husband's, her status in the UK was uncertain, and she did not have access to public funds. Pregnant and homeless, she found herself on the street.

Sayeda approached Praxis, a not-for-profit organisation for migrants and refugees, for help, and the legal team worked with her to challenge her status. In the UK, the immigration policy No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) excludes people with certain migration statuses from accessing aspects of social security, including people who are fleeing from or who are survivors of abuse. Praxis made sure that Sayeda was safely housed, first in a refuge, and then in Praxis's housing project. After a few months, Sayeda's immigration status changed and she was allowed to remain in the UK. Able to access public funds, she moved into mainstream, safe housing with her baby, Ruli. "I was alone, pregnant, on the streets during the pandemic, with no support," says Sayeda. "If Praxis hadn't been there, what would have happened to me? Domestic abuse survivors have nowhere to go - we can't go back to our husbands and to our countries, it's unsafe for us and we would fall back into abuse. Everyone should have access to support when they face domestic abuse - no matter where we are from or what kind of papers we have."

Throughout the Covid-19 lockdown in 2021, Praxis continued to provide essential services for migrants and refugees in London, while also working towards systemic change. By addressing the housing needs of migrant women and children who face destitution, Praxis has learned that people have a greater chance of resolving their uncertain immigration status and securing safe housing, if they receive early access to immigration advice.

"Our grantee partners support, listen, and learn from those with lived experiences of homelessness," says Raji Hunjan, director of Oak's Housing and Homelessness Programme. "Ultimately, we believe that's the best way to improve systems."

"Our grantee partners support, listen, and learn from those with lived experiences of homelessness."

#### Raji Hunjan

Praxis has learned from supporting women like Sayeda, and raised awareness of the critical difference early immigration advice can have in preventing homelessness for people with NRPF. This saves the local authorities time and money. As a result, the local authorities that Praxis works with increasingly recognise immigration advice as integral to the services it offers migrant communities. Recently, Praxis set up a NRPF Action Group to tackle the inequality created by the NRPF rule. The group is made up of migrants fighting for equality, justice, and fairness for all. You can read the group's manifesto, Living with Dignity: A Campaign to End No Recourse to Public Funds Policy, here: www.praxis.org.uk/campaigning.



Our grantee partners in the UK and US work to ensure safe and secure homes for migrant communities.



In Scotland, Homeless Network Scotland is also working, as part of a consortium, to identify collective actions that will end homelessness for migrant people left destitute due to the NRPF policy. With the support of four facilitators who have lived experience of homelessness, the consortium has co-designed the Fair Ways initiative. This is a whole systems approach, which means responsibility for housing migrants with NRPF is shared with the Scottish Refugee Council, the Refugee Survival Trust, Safe in Scotland, Simon Community Scotland, and Turning Point Scotland. These various organisations specialise in supporting, advising, and accommodating people seeking asylum. Together they work to ensure that people are provided with secure housing and access to essential services, support, and advice - in efforts to reach the ambitious but achievable aim of ending destitution in Scotland.

Across the Atlantic in the US, HIAS Pennsylvania works to provide legal and social services to lowincome and at-risk migrants and refugees. In summer 2021, as the crisis in Afghanistan unfolded, the organisation stepped up to provide Afghan refugees with both legal and social support. In September 2021, it significantly expanded its legal service by recruiting and training 600 attorneys to represent US Afghan residents, fighting to secure

the safe exit of their relatives out of Afghanistan. HIAS PA's own office manager's wife and children, who were resettled in Philadelphia in 2019, were trapped in Kabul and had a harrowing escape. HIAS PA resettled newly arrived Afghan refugees daily throughout October 2021. Recognising a need to make sure they are supported through an expediated asylum claim process, HIAS PA has also trained pro bono attorneys in asylum law.

The Right to the City Alliance is a US-based national alliance with a strong commitment to migrant justice. Migrants (especially undocumented migrants of colour) are regularly taken advantage of by landlords or left out of traditional affordable housing programmes, and are a big priority for Right to the City's member groups, with many working at the intersection of housing justice and migrant rights. Two of these are 9to5 Colorado, a membership organisation that specialises in supporting working women, and Inquilnxs Unidxs Por Justica (IX), which works to transform the Minneapolis housing system. 9to5 organises migrants, many of whom are undocumented, in mobile home communities, thus helping to stop the displacement of their communities. By turning mobile home parks into co-ops, it prevents the land from being sold on the speculative market. Similarly, IX supported

a group of migrant residents living in an apartment block to fight back against a landlord who would not carry out repairs on the property and who was unjustly evicting people. IX pressured the landlord through the courts and public education campaigns into selling the property to IX, which will better take care of the tenants.

In Oak's Housing and Homelessness Programme, we support organisations that use their understanding of individual problems that people experience, to expose and change faults in systems. We remain deeply grateful for the energy and commitment of all our partners, who, as the pandemic has persisted, continue to provide essential support to their communities, while challenging the systems that make people homeless in the first place. Collectively they have continued to improve and increase rights for renters, as well as access to secure housing.

**Caption:** The photos in the HHP section of this report illustrate the work of our partners to help ensure safe and secure homes for communities.



### **Grants**

#### Renters' rights

#### Action Center on Race and the Economy Institute USD 300,000 (3 years)

To provide research and analysis through a racial lens that contributes to a national housing campaign in the US.

#### Association of Community Organisations for Reform Now Ltd (DBA as ACORN) USD 99,999 (18 months)

To ensure those living in the private rented sector in Bradford, the UK, are more powerful, effective, and able to advocate for themselves.

## Community Legal Services Inc. USD 1,800,000 (5 years)

To hold predatory landlords accountable for discriminatory practices in the US, and to fight poverty, challenge systems that perpetuate injustice, and change lives through advocacy and legal representation.

## Foundation for City College USD 400,000 (3 years)

To institutionalise a fellowship programme of university-level courses in community organising and related subjects.

#### Generation Rent USD 433,333 (5 years)

To provide core support to Generation Rent to help ensure people in the UK have access to secure, good quality, and affordable homes in the private rented sector.

#### Inclusion London USD 334,712 (2 years)

To build the capacity of organisations working with deaf and disabled people in London, the United Kingdom, to uphold their housing rights and entitlements.

### Living Rent USD 99,640 (18 months)

To build tenant branches in Glasgow and Edinburgh to enable Living Rent (LR) to reach out to support a greater number of tenants to get active locally and expand national campaigns.

## London Tenants Federation USD 100,000 (2 years)

To build capacity and strengthen the voice of London's social housing tenants' groups and networks by influencing policy that meets the need and desire for good quality homes and neighbourhoods.

#### New Economics Organising Network USD 500,000 (3 years)

To identify housing activists in the UK who want to develop strategies to stabilise rents.

#### New York Communities Organizing Fund, Inc USD 750,000 (3 years)

To expand and strengthen a coalition of grassroots organisations that advocate for expanded protections for vulnerable tenants across New York State.

## New York Foundation USD 999,999 (3 years)

To continue to be part of the Neighborhoods First Fund, a funder collaborative administered by the New York Foundation.

## People's Action Institute USD 700,000 (3 years)

To strengthen community organisations that will organise a powerful base of grassroots community members to advance the Homes Guarantee, US national housing plan.

#### Policy Link USD 2,000,000 (3 years)

To elevate structural solutions to the underlying injustice of the housing system in the US, amplify a new housing narrative, stop evictions, and extend tenant protections.

## The Reinvestment Fund USD 75,000 (4 months)

To evaluate the impact of the Philadelphia's mediation and eviction diversion programmes.

## Right To The City Alliance (RTTC)

USD 1,050,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to the RTTC which works across the US through its member organisations.

#### Urban Revival Inc, dba City Life/Vida Urbana USD 1,745,000 (5 years)

To support City Life/Vida Urbana in Boston to support tenant organisers to create and preserve affordable housing for working-class residents of colour, through training and advocacy and building tenant and working class power.

#### Reduction in Homelessness

## Barrow Cadbury Trust USD 266,668 (3 years)

To eliminate the poverty premium in the UK by 2028.

#### Black South West Network (BSWN) USD 1,066,667 (5 years)

To provide core support to BSWN, based in Bristol, the United Kingdom, to advocate for initiatives relating to racial equity, specifically around housing and homelessness.

#### Brighter Futures USD 493,333 (27 months)

To create a women's hub which will provide services to women in North Staffordshire, the United Kingdom, including accommodation, outreach, recovery support, employment, skills, and training.

## Butler Family Fund USD 1,010,000 (2 years)

To increase the Butler Family Fund's re-granting capacity to organisations in the United States working at the intersection of housing justice and the criminal legal system reform.

## Camden Community Law Centre USD 720,000 (5 years)

To provide support to the Camden Community Law Centre to increase the capacity of the Public Interest Law Centre team in the United Kingdom to prevent homelessness, support migrants and asylum seekers, and improve access to public services in London and across the UK.

#### City Bridge Trust USD 253,333 (18 months)

To measure how coachingbased activities support the resilience of frontline staff in the homelessness sector in London, the UK.

#### Cymorth Cymru USD 153,565 (3 years)

To support Cymorth Cymru to establish a project in Wales, the UK, that amplifies the voices of people with lived experience of homelessness, in order to influence policy at local and national levels.

#### Family Indpendence Initiative National - dba: UpTogether USD 700,000 (5 years)

To provide support to UpTogether's 'Trust and Invest Collaborative', a partnership that will evaluate the impact of cash payments on people with low incomes in the United States.

#### FJC – A Foundation of Philanthropic Funds USD 450,000 (3 years)

To begin to transform New York City's homelessness systems in order to prevent and end homelessness.

#### Glasgow Night Shelter for Destitute Asylum Seekers USD 93,333 (2 years)

To provide core support to enable Safe in Scotland to develop a business and funding strategy.

## Good Shepherd Services CIO USD 346,667 (5 years)

To support the operation of Good Shepherd Services' homelessness reduction programme in Wolverhampton in the West Midlands, UK.

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To support the operation of Good Shepherd Services' homelessness reduction programme in Wolverhampton in the West Midlands, UK.

## Heriot-Watt University USD 693,333 (3 years)

To deliver a major knowledge and capacity-building programme in order to help eliminate racial discrimination, disparities, and injustices in the homelessness and housing field in the UK.

## Homeless Network Scotland USD 946,667 (3 years)

To end homelessness and destitution among people with no recourse to public funds in Scotland.

#### Jubilee Debt Campaign USD 253,793 (3 years)

To tackle the accumulation of problem household debt in the UK.

#### Race on the Agenda Resource for London (ROTA) USD 93,333 (1 year)

To provide core support to ROTA, a small UK-based organisation that works on race equity, and on building capacity of the Black and Minoritised Ethnic-led voluntary sector.

## Refugee and Migrant Centre USD 800,000 (4 years)

To provide core support to the Refugee and Migrant Centre to support asylum seekers, migrants, and refugees in the West Midlands, the United Kingdom.

#### Shelter USD 1,065,915 (4 years)

To empower communities in Birmingham to fight homelessness in their city.

## Shelter from the storm USD 366,667 (5 years)

To increase positive outcomes for residents of a homeless shelter through the development of improved monitoring and evaluation systems.

#### Tai Pawb USD 426,667 (5 years)

To provide core support to Tai Pawb in Wales, a social justice and equality-focused advocacy and capacity-building organisation.

## The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland USD 1,000,000 (3 years)

To contribute to reducing and preventing homelessness in Northern Ireland by supporting projects that address root causes and amplify the voices of homeless people and those at risk of homelessness.

## The Gender Justice Fund USD 1,000,000 (5 years)

To support small, womenled organisations that work with women and girls and trans/gender nonconforming individuals recently leaving jail with their housing needs in Philadelphia, the US.

#### The Urban Homesteading Assistance Board (UHAB) USD 600,000 (4 years)

To support UHAB to assess 268 co-ops in need of repair, which provide low-income residents with long-term, secure housing in New York City.

#### Toynbee Hall USD 99,911 (5 months)

To plan and develop a full work programme for the United Kingdom Action on Debt Coalition.

#### Why Not Prosper, Inc USD 499,000 (4 years)

To provide support to women leaving prison in Pennsylvania,

## Increase supply and access to housing

## Black Country Make CIC USD 100,000 (15 months)

To free up under-used land in the UK in order to deliver affordable, energy positive, precision engineered community designed, manufactured and self-built homes.

## Friends, Families and Travellers USD 351,000 (3 years)

To strengthen the capacity of grassroots Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller organisations to challenge poor practice in local development plan processes in the United Kingdom.

## Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania USD 800,000 (5 years)

To prevent and end homelessness, and increase housing affordability and quality in Pennsylvania, US.

#### Neighborhood Trust Financial Partners USD 415,000 (2 years)

To promote programmes, products, and policies to help more people achieve financial security in the US.

## New Economics Foundation USD 2,000,000 (5 years)

To increase the voice of communities and tenants to fight for social housing at local levels in the UK.

#### North Star Fund (NSF) USD 1,000,000 (4 years)

To provide core support to NSF to strengthen grassroots organising led by communities of colour in New York City and the Hudson Valley.

#### Participation and Practice of Rights USD 93,333 (10 months)

To lead the Take Back the City coalition in creating a sustainable eco-village on a piece of land called the Mackie's site in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

#### Supportive Housing Network of New York USD 1,000,000 (4 years)

To provide support for the supportive housing sector in New York and to ensure good quality implementation of state and city supportive housing commitments and to improve housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness, while working to improve racial equity internally and sector wide.

## The Ubele Initiative USD 1,318,587 (5 years)

To provide support to the Ubele Initiative, which works to help create inclusive community wealth building in the United Kingdom.



## International Human Rights

## Protecting and promoting the human rights of all people

Since 1948, the global community has developed an extensive body of international law and principles to protect human rights. The development and implementation of these standards has always faced opposition and there remains a gulf between human rights rhetoric and the lived experience of so many people. We seek to close that gap.

One of our grant-making priorities is to protect human rights defenders at risk. To this end, we support efforts that: strengthen international protection networks to ensure a robust, responsive safety-net for human rights defenders under threat; and equip human rights defenders

with the necessary skills and technological innovations to effectively conduct their work. We work internationally at global, regional, and national levels. We fund directly in the EU (including the UK), the US, Brazil, India, and Myanmar. You can read more about our grant-making on Oak's website.

The story on the following pages illustrates the work of our partners to stop spyware companies operating with free rein, document global surveillance, censorship, and information controls that impact human rights, and protect the right to privacy and safety of human rights defenders around the world.

## Digital space: the frontier of civic repression and activism

Alaa Al-Siddiq, a 33-year-old human rights activist from the United Arab Emirates, was subject to relentless and insidious digital surveillance. Her phone was hacked using Pegasus spyware. Produced by NSO Group, a commercial spyware company, it had access to her texts, photos, and emails, rendering the phone an external listening device.

Alaa's surveillance was investigated and exposed by Oak partner Citizen Lab, a team of forensic technology researchers at the University of Toronto. It is at the forefront of researching and documenting global surveillance, censorship, and information controls that impact human rights, and the openness and security of the internet.

Citizen Lab identified 45 countries where Pegasus operators conducted surveillance operations for government and corporate clients. The NSO group insists that its product is only deployed lawfully in the battle against terrorism or serious criminal activity. However, Alaa was targeted because of her work exposing human rights violations in the Gulf region. Her surveillance and harassment formed part of a broader tactic to stifle civic activism and, in turn, muzzle dissent. Spyware like Pegasus has allowed some governments to reach across borders to threaten civic activists.

Professor Ron Deibert, the director of Citizen Lab, has been engaged in a cat-and-mouse game with spyware companies for years. His team has used innovative research techniques to expose how hundreds of journalists, human rights activists, and senior government officials have been targeted. "Even though software typically can't kill people directly in the way that bullets can, the end result is often the same," says Ron. "Until steps are taken to rein in mercenary commercial spyware, repressive governments will continue to exploit products like Pegasus to undermine the work of those who hold power to account." Encouragingly, Citizen Lab has made progress.

Together with Citizen Lab, Access Now, an organisation that works to defend the rights of digital users at risk around the world, helped to ensure that the US Government added the NSO Group to a list of companies sanctioned for malicious cyber activities. "This is a huge win," says Natalia Krapiva, the tech legal counsel at Access Now. "NSO Group says that its spyware technologies are all about protecting public

safety and national security. But now we have the US saying that these companies are violating not only human rights but also US national security through their assaults on democracy." The US blacklisting will have an immediate impact, including reducing investment in spyware and cutting NSO off from critical technical supplies.

But digital surveillance is not the only means by which civic activism can be curtailed.

Access Now also coordinates the #KeepItOn Coalition, which monitors internet shutdowns. Internet shutdowns can be anything from a full shutdown or blackouts that cut off access to the entire web within a given region, to more targeted partial shutdowns that impact specific services, like popular social media and messaging apps. In 2020 alone, Access Now documented 155 internet shutdowns in 29 countries. This year, it documented internet blackouts during the presidential elections in Uganda, nationwide protests in India, and the military coup in Myanmar. Shutdowns are generally conducted under the pretext of 'protecting national security' or 'preventing the spread of misinformation', when often, they are a means of curbing dissent. Access Now brings much needed international attention to the issue and helps to inform policy makers.



In 2020 alone, Access Now documented 155 internet shutdowns in 29 countries.



Through its 24/7 helpline, Access Now also provides a first line of defence. This is a free-of-charge resource for civil society around the world. It offers real-time, direct technical assistance and advice to civil society groups and activists, media organisations, journalists, bloggers, and human rights defenders. It equips civil society actors with the tools and knowledge to work around repressive digital practices. To date, its helpline, which operates 24/7 and in nine languages, has responded to 10,000 requests for assistance.

Privacy International is a UK-based organisation that works at the intersection of modern technologies and rights. For years, it has made investigations and campaigned against hacking powers, like those enabled by NSO Group and other companies. Previously used exclusively by intelligence agencies, Privacy International has uncovered that system exploitation is increasingly conducted by police and immigration officials. The organisation has exposed how governments are secretly expanding their arsenals to conduct generalised, invisible, real-time surveillance of civic spaces, from a distance. Increasingly, governments are able to extract data on a widespread scale from these civic spaces, and then create searchable archives of the people who participate in them.

In addition, Privacy International is engaged in high profile legal cases on surveillance. Most recently, it was involved in a seminal European Court of Human Rights case that emerged from the Snowden revelations. The court declared that the UK intelligence agency GCHQ had unlawfully intercepted and monitored data. Privacy International was involved in other cases over the last year that also had similar positive results.

"We are working toward a world where technology will empower and enable us, not exploit our data for profit and power."

#### Gus Hosein

"We are working toward a world where technology will empower and enable us, not exploit our data for profit and power," says Gus Hosein, executive director of Privacy International. Recently, Privacy International expanded its work with Open Briefing (also an Oak partner) over the pandemic period. Open Briefing is a not-for-profit organisation that provides human rights defenders and other civic actors in high-risk environments, with resources to improve their

safety and security, digital security, wellbeing, and resilience. Both organisations focus attention on secure digital infrastructure for civil society organisations, and on supporting civil society organisations across the world.

Sadly, human rights defender Alaa Al-Siddiq passed away in a tragic road accident in 2021 near Oxford in the United Kingdom. "We understand that the surveillance campaign was a source of anguish and concern during the last year of Alaa's life," says Adrian Arena, director of Oak's International Human Rights Programme. "It is clear from her experience and those of other human right defenders that their protection and privacy is of crucial importance."

Keeping civil society safe, connected, and empowered is essential to protecting human rights and democracy. We are pleased to support civil society to respond to the inherent risks (and opportunities) posed by the online space. Given that many of our partners work in high-risk contexts, we are dedicated to ensuring that we provide these partners with a duty of care. To this end, we are happy to support the work of our partners mentioned above, who seek to build a more secure, free, and open digital future, not just for civic activists, but for everyone.

#### **Grants**

## Broadening human rights constituencies

#### **EachOther**

#### USD 368,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to EachOther to help cultivate a culture of human rights in the UK.

#### International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association

#### USD 750,370 (3 years)

To foster stronger and more strategic communications practices across the European and Central Asian LGBTQI movement.

#### International Network of Civil Liberties Organisations (INCLO) USD 600,000 (4 years)

To protect fundamental guarantees with respect to social protest, privacy rights, religious freedom, and civic activism.

#### Nucleo de Preservacao da Memoria Politica

#### USD 149,357 (18 months)

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

## **Ending** impunity

#### **Access Now**

#### USD 1,800,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to Access Now, which works to defend and extend the digital rights of users at risk around the world.

#### Australian Centre for International Justice

#### USD 100,000 (1 year)

To seek accountability for alleged war crimes perpetrated by Australian special forces in Afghanistan from 2006-2016.

## Center for Justice and Accountability

#### USD 1,500,000 (4 years)

To deter torture, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other severe human rights abuses around the world through litigation, legal advocacy, and outreach in pursuit of truth, justice and redress for victims and survivors.

#### European Implementation Network

#### USD 232,143 (3 years)

To help build and strengthen the ability of civil society to advocate for better implementation of judgements of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR).

#### Human Rights Law Resource Centre Ltd

#### USD 601,443 (3 years)

To support the work of the Business and Human Rights Programme in its efforts to ensure that Australian companies respect human rights wherever they operate and are held accountable if they fail to do so.

#### HURIDOCS

#### USD 659,341 (3 years)

To provide technology solutions that enable human rights organisations to grow globally, in particular by increasing income from paid services and products.

## Instituto Vladimir Herzog USD 245,000 (18 months)

To combat historical revisionism in Brazil regarding the military dictatorship.

#### Mnemonic

#### USD 655,226 (3 years)

To preserve, enhance, and memorialise open-source evidence of human rights violations in Syria for advocacy, reporting, and accountability purposes.

#### Redress

#### USD 250,000 (2 years)

To facilitate the designation of rights abusers under the UK (Magnitsky) sanctions regime.

#### Robert F Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

#### USD 250,000 (18 months)

To support the Robert F Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights in its mission to advocate for human rights in the US and around the world.

#### Schell Center for International Human Rights, Yale University USD 250,000 (2 years)

To support the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar.

#### The Regents of the University of California

#### USD 1,250,000 (3 years)

To conduct open-source investigations into international crimes through the Investigations Lab and to provide handson training in forensic digital investigations.

#### The Voices Project

#### USD 970,000 (3 years)

To build a strong cohort of organisations to secure justice and accountability for the Syrian conflict.

# Ensuring freedom from arbitrary detention and torture

#### All Party Parliamentary Group On Extraordinary Rendition USD 100,000 (1 year)

To pursue investigations into UK complicity in extraordinary rendition.

## Business and Human Rights Resource Centre

#### USD 40,000 (1 year)

To support the corporate legal accountability portal which seeks to: empower advocates so that they can hold corporates to account; strengthen legal protections to better protect victims of abuse; and drive forward the global debate on accountability for corporate human rights impacts.

#### **Detention Action**

#### USD 980,267 (4 years)

To provide core support for Detention Action's efforts to reform immigration detention at an individual and policy level.

## European Climate Foundation USD 650,000 (2 years)

To minimise the commercial incentives driving a punitive and militarised response to irregular migration globally.

## Fair Trials International USD 1,100,000 (3 years)

To promote and protect the fundamental rights of people facing criminal charges around the world.

## Foundation for the Rights of Disadvantaged Populations USD 250,000 (3 years)

To advance the rights of refugees and other people in need of protection in the Asia-Pacific region through capacity-strengthening, joint-advocacy, and knowledge sharing.

## FrameWorks Institute USD 444,925 (2 years)

To develop framing strategies that can challenge dominant narratives around punishment and security in Brazil and support those that focus on the possibilities for a more effective and less punitive system of public safety.

## Global Detention Project USD 250,000 (2 years)

To ensure that asylum seekers, undocumented migrants and refugees are treated with dignity and respect when in official custody.

## The Helen Bamber Foundation USD 440,000 (4 years)

To challenge the use of immigration detention and quasi-detention for vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees.

## Hungarian Helsinki Committee USD 1,488,095 (4 years)

To defend the rule of law, the right to asylum, and a fair criminal justice system in Hungary.

## International Detention Coalition

#### USD 1,008,163 (3 years)

To support the International Detention Coalition to build movements that influence law, policy, and practices to end immigration detention and implement rights-based alternatives to detention.

#### Medical Justice

#### USD 500,000 (4 years)

To provide core support to Medical Justice, based in London, which focuses on ending medical mistreatment of immigration detainees.



#### Memorial Human Rights Centre

#### USD 150,000 (1 year)

To provide core support to OVD-Info for outreach and legal assistance in cases of arbitrary detention.

#### Network of European Foundations

#### USD 245,833 (1 year)

To enable the European Programme for Integration and Migration to provide urgent support to civil society organisations providing legal services to asylum-seekers and other migrants in Greece.

## Omega Research Foundation USD 250,000 (3 years)

To prevent torture and ill-treatment by strengthening legal frameworks that control the trade in torture technologies.

#### Open Rights Group USD 140,000 (1 year)

To empower the refugee and migrants' rights sector in the UK to work and campaign against the increasing collection of personal data, data sharing, and new technologies driving immigration controls.

## Organisation Mondiale Contre la Torture (OMCT)

#### USD 1,098,901 (4 years)

To strengthen OMCT's communications and network capacity, and increase the effectiveness, visibility, and reach of its advocacy in the fight against torture.

#### Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants

#### USD 542,857 (3 years)

To seek improvements in legislation in the EU and nationally across Europe in policy, practice and public attitudes in relation to undocumented migrants.

## Protecting LGBTQI communities

## Community Initiatives USD 120,000 (1 year)

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

#### FUNDO POSITIVO USD 190,877 (1 year)

To set up an LGBTQI fund in Brazil to support civil society organisations working to advance rights and social justice.

## Human Dignity Trust USD 1,013,333 (4 years)

To eradicate laws that criminalise consensual same-sex sexual relations and effect related legal change to end the systemic persecution and marginalisation of LGBTQI people.

## Supporting and protecting human rights defenders

#### European Center for Not-for-Profit Law Stichting USD 247,507 (2 years)

To increase the impact and resilience of the Expert Hub on anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing.

## Fortify Rights USD 750,000 (3 years)

To work to ensure and defend human rights, highlighting findings, and working in close collaboration to strengthen organisations and communities advocating for change.

#### International Civil Society Action network USD 282,400 (1 year)

To facilitate the evacuation of 34 at-risk Afghan nationals eligible for resettlement.

## Martin Ennals Foundation USD 100,000 (1 year)

To offer coaching to facilitate the professional and personal growth of human rights defenders and catalyse collaboration around common themes.

#### Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto USD 1,232,569 (4 years)

To produce evidence-based research on targeted digital threats against civil society and other developments adversely impacting civic activism, and build local capacity to recognise and respond to these threats.

#### People in Need USD 450,000 (3 years)

To provide a robust safety net for human rights defenders, civic activists, and journalists at risk, using tools such as emergency relocation, individual and group rehabilitation sessions and advocacy work.

### Protection International

#### USD 1,011,905 (3 years)

To build a safer environment for human rights defenders in Asia, Africa, and Latin America by enhancing security where they are most at risk.



# Issues Affecting Women

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

Supporting women's movements to live, breathe, strengthen and grow – by enabling women's agency, leadership and capacity – is at the heart of the Issues Affecting Women Programme. To this end, we provide flexible, longterm support, and capacity-development support to women-led, rights-based organisations worldwide.

This means we support organisations that: build capacities, and strengthen women's agency and leadership; create and maintain safe spaces so that feminist agendas and perspectives are amplified and become more influential; and strengthen connections, cooperation, and collaboration within the women's rights movement and with other movements.

Around the world, women's rights activists are at the forefront of striving for a world where women are safe, free, and have an equal chance to thrive. This can cause many women's rights defenders to experience increased levels of stress and threats, leading to exhaustion, illness, and burnout.

We understand the importance of collective care among women's groups and its importance in fuelling resistance within feminist movements. The story on the following pages illustrates the work of our partners to protect, strengthen, and connect women's rights defenders around the world, including providing them with safe places to be resourced.

## Protecting and supporting women's rights defenders

All over the world, whether organising public demonstrations or leading online activism, women's rights activists are at the forefront, demanding transformative change, challenging the status quo, and striving for a world where women are safe, free, and have an equal chance to thrive. With that visibility, many women's rights defenders are experiencing increased levels of stress, threats, violence, and discrimination. All of this can lead to exhaustion, mental and physical illness, and burnout. Often these threats come from within families and communities, as well as from the government and systems that activists seek to reform.

## Self-care and collective-care as acts of resistance

The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated these dynamics as activists have added humanitarian support to the long list of services that they provide their communities. Many have had to take on additional responsibilities, for example having to take care of family members and deal with the emotional grief caused by the illness, including deaths of colleagues and loved ones. In this context, feminists increasingly recognise the importance of physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing, and invest in creating spaces that prioritise self- and collective-care. These acts demonstrate that selfand collective-care are strategies of resistance that enable activists to continue responding to the threats and challenges they face every day. Please read on to find out about the work of some of our partners working in this domain.

## Brazil: Digital security through an infrastructure of affection

The Brazilian Transfeminist Digital Care Network (TFN) was founded in 2018 to bring together feminist tech activists across Brazil to support digital security training for women human rights defenders. In recent times, the security situation for defenders has become even more perilous, and the kind of security training and support that TFN provides has become more critical. In the past, this training took the form of in-person workshops with Brazilian women human rights defenders, mostly from urban centres of the country. The trainings focused on navigating digital spaces while safeguarding personal data and protecting against trolls and harassment, which disproportionately target feminist activists.

In 2020, TFN re-designed its training methodology to move to virtual trainings. It turned its training into an eight-week long 'Gincana Monstra', named after traditional community treasure hunts that take place in Brazil. Designed to help build technical skills, the Gincana also created a playful and fun space for women human rights defenders to connect, providing them with a much-needed break from daily life. The participants received prizes in the form of phones and computers with pre-installed security applications. The women could use this equipment to further their online and in-person activism.

#### Infrastructure of affection

Traditional digital security trainings focus almost exclusively on digital threats and the potential harm to







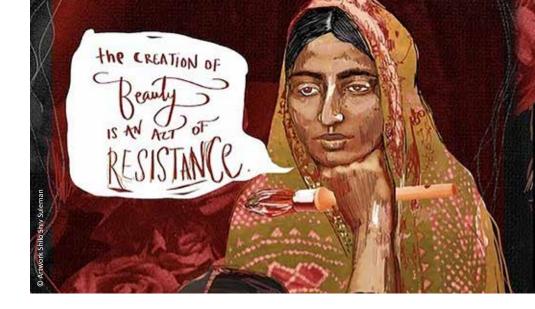
**Caption:** The photos throughout the Issues Affecting Women section of the report illustrate our partners' work to protect, strengthen, and connect women's rights defenders around the world, including by providing them with safe places to be resourced.

We understand the importance of collective care among women's groups and its importance in fuelling resistance within feminist movements.

individual activists. They start from a place of fear and caution. However, the TFN training also celebrates the internet for creating new spaces for connection and solidarity. Because the training was virtual, TFN could reach women in remote and rural parts of Brazil, especially in the Amazon and the northeast of the country, further strengthening their networks. The team also reinforced the importance of collective care by acknowledging that solidarity networks enable feminist activism and movements to endure multiple and ongoing crises, such as the Covid-19 pandemic. Relying on support and care from each other is how activists withstand security threats and how they deal with burnout or depression. TFN calls this 'building an infrastructure of affection'.

"Without Covid-19, we would have done the training as we normally did. But Covid-19 made us think about technology and digital care in a different way," said one TFN member. "We could also reach so many more women in rural and remote areas, so our network expanded. We reached more women and we could connect them with each other, and they also lifted each other."

TFN plans to continue to strengthen this infrastructure of affection in Brazil and is also sharing its methodology with other digital security trainers throughout the world. The aim is to focus on supporting collective care and encouraging solidarity among women human rights defenders to help women's movements stay strong, secure, and resilient.



#### Afghan Women's Survival Fund

MADRE is an international women's human rights organisation and feminist fund that partners with community-based women's groups worldwide facing war and disaster. In August 2021, following the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, MADRE launched a new campaign to mobilise emergency aid through its Afghan Women's Survival Fund. The fund initially prioritised emergency evacuations and resettlement for women who were being targeted by the Taliban.

"Women are facing so many difficulties. This is a feminist approach to sisterhood, sisters helping sisters without any political agenda."

#### Jamila Afghani

Women around the world worked together, often leveraging personal connections, to access transit and resettlement visas, find seats on flights, secure accommodation, and welcome Afghan women into countries of asylum. Jamila Afghani, president of the WILPF-Afghanistan section, is one of the women's rights activists who was supported to flee Afghanistan. Reflecting on this support, she said: "Women are facing so many difficulties. So this small hope is a big sum for those who are in a such a dire situation. This is a feminist approach of sisterhood, sisters helping sisters without any political agenda. This is like a gift from God."

But most women human rights defenders in Afghanistan are unable to travel abroad or prefer to stay and continue their work in secret. The fund is protecting these women too. It supports relocation inside the country and provides humanitarian aid for women and their families facing shortages of food, fuel, and water due to the collapse of the government, Covid-19, and drought. Organisations are receiving money for travel, fuel, food, medical care, and secure communications technology. The physical safety, emotional wellbeing, and regular connections between activists are an integral part of the care this fund offers.

Throughout the world, in ways big and small, feminist activists are showing up for each other, whether it is organising a fund to help evacuate activists at risk of Taliban retribution, or by re-imagining digital security training as an opportunity to strengthen feminist solidarity networks.

"Women's rights activists have always helped and supported each other to get through hard times. We now recognise this support as collective care and understand its importance in fuelling continued resilience and resistance within feminist movements," says Katharina Samara-Wickrama, director of the Issues Affecting Women Programme. "We are increasingly prioritising collective care as part of our accompaniment support for grantee partners and believe this will help increase the sustainability and impact of the incredible partners we support."

#### **Grants**

#### Association for **Community Relations**

#### USD 2,000,000 (2 years)

To strengthen not-for-profit organisations, groups, and the women's movement that are working to end violence against women in Moldova.

#### Astraea Lesbian **Foundation For Justice** USD 309,000 (3 years)

To support the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice in pursuit of its mission to advance LGBTQI human rights around the globe.

#### Centre for Women's Justice USD 433,000 (3 years)

To provide unrestricted programme support to the UKbased Centre for Women's Justice to tackle psychological violence/ coercive control.

#### Disability Rights Fund (DRF) USD 200,000 (1 year)

To provide core funding to DRF to expand its grant-making to women-led disability rights organisations.

#### **Ecumenical Women's Initiative** USD 100,000 (1 year)

To provide core support to **Ecumenical Women's Initiative** to help empower women and girls as advocates for their human rights and as facilitators of dialogue for peace and reconciliation in the Western Balkans.

#### **End Violence Against** Women Coalition (EVAW) USD 460,000 (3 years)

To provide core funding to the UK-based EVAW, a coalition of specialist women's support services, researchers, activists. survivors and not-for-profit organisations working to end violence against women and girls in all its forms.

#### Free Yezidi Foundation USD 474,985 (3 years)

To provide core support to the Free Yezidi Foundation, which delivers holistic care to Yezidi women and children survivors of ISIS violence in Iraq

#### **Global Dialogue**

#### USD 1,000,000 (2 years)

To work with human rights activists to develop a network which will support their use of narratives and strategic communications approaches and facilitate collaboration.

#### **Level Up Action** USD 325,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to Level Up Action to campaign for gender justice in the UK.

#### MADRE

#### USD 500,000 (1 year)

To set up and resource the Afghan Women's Survival Fund, a new emergency fund that seeks to support the urgent protection and relocation needs of women human rights defenders, activists and human rights defenders in Afghanistan.

#### **Media Matters** for Women (MMW) USD 200,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to MMW,

which works to connect women and girls beyond the reach of traditional media in Sierra Leone.

#### openDemocracy

#### USD 1,000,000 (3 years)

To support the expansion of openDemocracy's Tracking the Backlash project, which aims to build an international consortium of investigative journalists working together across borders to expose, challenge, and reverse the transnational backlash against women's and LGBTQI rights.

#### Prospera International **Network of Women's Funds** USD 1,300,000 (5 years)

To provide core support to Prospera International Network of Women's Funds to increase its capacity to strengthen the field of women's funds to transform the lives and communities of women and girls across the world.

#### **Rainbow Spot**

#### USD 109,893 (1 year)

To strengthen LGBTQI migrants' access to relevant information regarding the rights and services available to them in Switzerland.

#### **Rockefeller Philanthropy** Advisors, Inc.

#### USD 2,620,157 (2 years)

To support the development of the Issues Affecting Women's Programme big bet grant to strengthen human rights movements.

#### **Rockefeller Philanthropy** Advisors, Inc. (RPA)

#### USD 4,608,676 (2 years)

To provide RPA with a two-year grant to take over management of the IAWP's US anti-trafficking and exploitation portfolio.

#### **Rockefeller Philanthropy** Advisors, Inc.

#### USD 750,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to Grantmakers for Girls of Color in its mission to amplify and resource the transformational work that girls and non-binary youth of colour are leading to dismantle systems of oppression in the US.

#### **SafeLives**

#### USD 150,000 (1 year)

To provide core support to SafeLives to help end domestic abuse in the UK.

#### **Social Good Fund** USD 225,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to Fearless Collective to increase its capacity to use public art and storytelling to reclaim spaces with communities in the Global South who have been historically misrepresented or underrepresented.

#### **Survivor Family** Network C.I.C.

#### USD 100,000 (1 year)

To enable the UK-based Survivor Family Network to map groups working on domestic abuse and the Family Courts and create an international network.

#### **Swiss Philanthropy** Foundation

#### USD 200,000 (2 years)

To provide small grants to existing Issues Affecting Women Programme grantee partners to improve the effectiveness and impact of women-led organisations to end violence against women and girls and advance their rights.

#### The Angelou Centre USD 250,000 (2 years)

To assess and adapt existing domestic violence risk management tools and practice in the northeast of England, while providing holistic support to women and children who have been subject to domestic and sexual violence.

#### The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland

#### USD 250,000 (3 years)

To reduce homelessness in Northern Ireland by supporting projects that address violence against women.

#### **TRAG Foundation**

#### USD 7,396,688 (3 years)

To strengthen the women's movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia to effectively combat violence against women and preserve hard-won women's rights.

#### **Urgent Action Fund** of Latin America

#### USD 1,000,000 (5 years)

To provide core support to the Urgent Action Fund of Latin America, which works to ensure the wellbeing and security of women's rights defenders.

#### **WAVE Network**

#### USD 611,905 (3 years)

To provide core support to the WAVE Network for advocacy, campaigning, capacity building, and research support to women's specialist services (shelters, centres, and helplines) in 46 European countries.

#### Women Win

#### USD 600,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to Numun Fund for re-granting and strengthening it internally.

#### Women Win

#### USD 750,000 (5 years)

To provide core support to Win-Win Strategies, hosted by Women Win, to increase its capacity to build relationships between the corporate sector and women's funds.

#### Women's Fund for Scotland USD 334,667 (3 years)

To provide grants and capacity building to women's groups across Scotland.

#### **Womens Link Worldwide** USD 750.000 (5 years)

To provide core support to Women's Link Worldwide to advance its mission of using the power of law to promote social change that advances the human rights of women and girls.

#### **World Pulse**

#### USD 500,000 (5 years)

To provide World Pulse with core support to increase its capacity to use the power of technology to grow women's leadership across the globe.



## 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 with and invest in not-for-profit organisations that improve education for all students, particularly those with learning differences who experience further marginalisation due to racism and poverty.

We support not-for-profit organisations that improve education for students with learning differences. 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 such as learning differences, race, income, language, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, and religion.

We know that reading is one of the most important skills a person can learn. The story on the following pages illustrates the work of our partners to help children build reading skills and the most effective ways to help them learn.

## Supporting research-based reading instruction

Reading is one of the most important skills a person can learn. Reading opens up new worlds of possibility for learning and exploration. And, research has shown that proficient readers are more likely to graduate from high school, find success in college, and experience greater economic mobility and opportunity in adulthood.

Unlike learning how to walk or talk, learning how to read is not a natural stage of a child's life – it is a skill that must be developed. Scientific research has helped us understand how children build reading skills, and the most effective ways to help them learn. With this type of evidence-based instruction (known as the 'science of reading'), more than 95 per cent of children can be successful readers by the end of first grade – including the great majority of students with learning differences, such as dyslexia.<sup>1</sup>

## Schools do not always follow the science

Despite the research about the most effective way to teach reading to students with learning differences, schools in the United States and around the world do not follow a consistent approach to help all children learn to read successfully.

Today, two thirds of fourth-grade students in the US read below grade-level standards, with 88 per cent of children with disabilities still struggling to read at eight or nine years old. More than 80 per cent of Black students, students from low-income backgrounds, and English-language learners are reading below grade level at the end of fourth grade.<sup>2</sup>

A big part of the challenge is that fewer than one in ten teachers in the US report that they feel prepared to teach reading effectively. Most teachers did not learn about the science of reading in their teacher-training programmes and have had to learn about successful approaches to reading instruction on their own.

As a result of this disconnect between research and practice, many classrooms in the US reinforce strategies used by struggling readers, rather than successful approaches backed by research. This has the most severe impact on children with learning differences, who need reading instruction that follows the science the most.

## Local and national work helps turn the tide

In 2021, the Learning Differences Programme launched several new partnerships to help shine a light on and strengthen reading instruction, especially for students furthest from opportunity. Our grantee partners' work spans a range of approaches from communications and advocacy, to school- and system-level support, to closer school-family partnerships.

#### **Increasing awareness**

Emily Hanford is a senior correspondent for the documentary and investigative reporting team at American Public Media (APM), a producer and distributor of public radio programming in the US. A few years ago, Emily became interested in dyslexia after meeting college students who had not received effective help for their reading struggles in elementary school. Emily knew little about dyslexia







**Caption:** The photos throughout the Learning Differences section of the report illustrate our grantees' work to help children build reading skills, and to find out the most effective ways to help them learn to read.

References: Please see page 66 of this report.

"We know more than ever before about how to help children become strong readers."

Malika Anderson

or reading instruction, but soon realised this was an important story with critical implications for the life chances of millions of children. "Dyslexia opened up this Pandora's box for me about reading instruction that's driven our focus now for several years," says Emily.

APM has since produced a series of investigations and podcasts. Subjects include: What is the vast body of scientific research on reading? Why do many schools not follow the science? How does misguided instruction create and widen inequality for students with learning differences, students of colour, and students from low-income backgrounds?

Emily's reporting has reached living rooms, board rooms, and legislative chambers across the US and beyond. This has ignited conversations about the science of reading and provoked a reassessment of instruction – with significant implications for teachers' preparation, instruction, professional learning, and state and local policy.

### **Supporting educators**

How can teachers use research-based methods of teaching reading if they never learned it themselves? Instruction Partners, a not-for-profit organisation based in Nashville, Tennessee, works 'shoulder to shoulder' with schools, systems, and states across the US to help teachers implement research-based practices that provide all students with excellent instruction.

With Oak support, Instruction Partners is working alongside teachers and principals in several



local communities to help educators implement the science of reading. It hopes to enable all students to read proficiently, with a focus on students with learning differences and other marginalised groups.

"We believe parents' love for their children is the single greatest natural resource in education."

### Alejandro Gibes de Gac

"We know more than ever before about how to help children become strong readers," says Malika Anderson, chief program officer at Instruction Partners. "However, teachers often receive conflicting information about how to leverage the science of reading. If we can help align the structures that support early literacy, we can help teachers centre instruction that accelerates all students' foundational reading skills." As schools across the US have sought to address learning challenges due the Covid-19 pandemic, the work of Instruction Partners is a crucial part of preparing more teachers with the skills, knowledge, and tools they need to help more students become strong readers.

### **Engaging families**

"While teachers are experts in instruction, families are the experts on their children," says Alejandro Gibes de Gac, founder and CEO of Springboard Collaborative, a national not-for-profit organisation dedicated

to closing the literacy gap by bridging the gap between home and school. "We believe parents' love for their children is the single greatest – and most underutilised – natural resource in education."

Long before the pandemic magnified the importance of parents' engagement in students' learning, Springboard Collaborative was dedicated to harnessing the power of parents and caregivers to support children's reading success in school. Through its programmes, Springboard coaches educators and supports families to work together to help children meet reading goals, with an emphasis on students who are most impacted by opportunity gaps.

This year, Springboard has expanded its work to help even more families and educators collaborate to support children's reading success. With the majority of participating students coming from low-income backgrounds, and 98 per cent identifying as students of colour, Springboard is working with nearly 17,000 families to build lifelong habits for strong readers.

We are proud to support APM Reports, Instruction Partners, Springboard Collaborative and our other partners in the early reading movement across the US. By shining a light on the challenges and empowering educators and families with better knowledge and tools grounded in the science of reading, together we can ensure that all students, especially students with learning differences who are furthest from opportunity, will become successful readers.

### Alder Graduate School of Education

### USD 400,000 (3 years)

To provide project support to Alder Graduate School of Education to prepare excellent teachers in culturally responsive, research-based literacy practices for all learners, especially those with learning differences.

### American Public Media USD 785,029 (3 years)

To support ongoing reporting about the teaching of reading in US classrooms, and intersections with learning differences and racial equity.

### Arizona State University USD 600,000 (3 years)

To support research that will inform education and policy leaders about students' experiences during the Covid-19 pandemic, in particular students with learning differences and other disabilities.

#### **Bard College**

### USD 450,000 (3 years)

To support Bard Early College to improve access to and preparation for higher education among students with learning differences.

### Cambiar Education USD 600,000 (3 years)

To provide support for the development, launch and scale of the All Means All principal leadership programme.

### **Cambiar Education**

### USD 2,000,000 (4 years)

To support Cambiar Education, a US-based education design and innovation studio dedicated to developing new ways that K-12 public schools and education entrepreneurs can expand education opportunities for students.

### Center for Curriculum Redesign

### USD 250,000 (1 year)

To develop resources and professional development tools for educators, which bridge the gap between teaching competencies like communication and critical thinking and disciplines such as maths, science, and language.

### Center for Racial Equity in Education

#### USD 300,000 (2 years)

To support the Center for Racial Equity in Education in its efforts to improve outcomes for students of colour with learning differences in North Carolina.

### Chiefs for Change

### USD 300,000 (20 months)

To provide project support to Chiefs for Change as it engages two school districts in improving their services to students with disabilities during the Covid-19 pandemic and related school closures in the United States.

### College Possible

#### USD 600,000 (2 years)

To support College Possible to build capacity for students with learning differences to help them get into college and complete their degrees.

#### College Summit Inc -PeerForward

### USD 600,000 (34 months)

To support PeerForward to build capacity to engage students of colour with learning differences as peer leaders.

### Education NC

### USD 550,000 (4 years)

To provide core support to Education NC for its ongoing reporting on students with learning differences in North Carolina.

### Equal Opportunity Schools USD 1,169,700 (3 years)

To support Equal Opportunity Schools in building capacity and systems to ensure students of colour with learning differences have equitable opportunities to succeed in advanced academic pathways.

### Fund for the City of New York

### USD 249,099 (1 year)

To support Student Success Network to recruit youth researchers, including those with learning differences, to participate in a Youth Participatory Action Research programme.

### Georgetown University

### USD 355,011 (28 months)

To support Edunomics Lab to integrate a focus on students with learning differences in its analysis and reporting on US state and districts' use of Federal Covid-relief (ARP) funds.

### Instruction Partners USD 500,000 (2 years)

To support the development of an early literacy service model to accelerate marginalised students' reading progress as schools recover from the Covid-19 pandemic.

#### MDC Inc.

#### USD 2,955,594 (3 years)

To continue building a learning and action network among North Carolina-based not-forprofit organisations to advance education policy and practice improvements for students with learning differences who are furthest from opportunity.

### National Council for Teacher Quality (NCTQ) USD 500.000 (2 years)

To provide support to NCTQ, based in Washington DC, for its work supporting teacher preparation programmes to improve students' access to high-quality reading instruction.

### NewSchools Fund

### USD 6,000,000 (34 months) To provide support to New

To provide support to New Schools Venture Fund in its work to support students with learning differences who experience additional adversity as they recover from the effects of Covid-19 in the United States.

#### Populace, Inc.

### USD 1,000,000 (2 years)

To provide core support to Populace for its work to build an abundant world where every individual has the opportunity to pursue a fulfilling life in a thriving society.

### President & Fellows of Harvard College

### USD 750,000 (2 years)

To provide support for the Education Redesign Laboratory (EdRedesign) to address the needs of students with learning differences through a whole-child approach driven by local communities.

### Special Education Leader Fellowship (SELF)

### USD 800,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to SELF to develop educators' skills in meeting the needs of students with disabilities.

### Springboard Collaborative

#### USD 675,000 (3 years)

To provide support for Springboard Collaborative's Family-Educator Learning Accelerator initiative.

### Swiss Philanthropy Foundation USD 259,825 (1 year)

To provide small grants to existing Oak LDP grantee partners with the aim of improving the effectiveness and impact of these not-for-profit organisations.

#### Teach For All

#### USD 1,000,000 (2 years)

To provide support to the Future of Education Global Fund to enable partner organisations in the Teach For All network to seed and scale shifts in teaching and learning to better support the most vulnerable learners during and beyond the Covid-19 crisis.

### The Aspen Institute USD 750,000 (3 years)

To support the Education and Society Program to advance a richer vision of student success that reflects students' academic achievement and their social and emotional development.

#### TNTP

### USD 900,000 (3 years)

To support TNTP to work with school districts to provide high-quality and equitable experiences and outcomes for students with learning differences from historically-marginalised groups.

### Transcend

### USD 1,000,000 (3 years)

To provide core support for Transcend's work to create and expand learning environments that enable all students, especially the most marginalised, to learn in ways that nurture their growth.

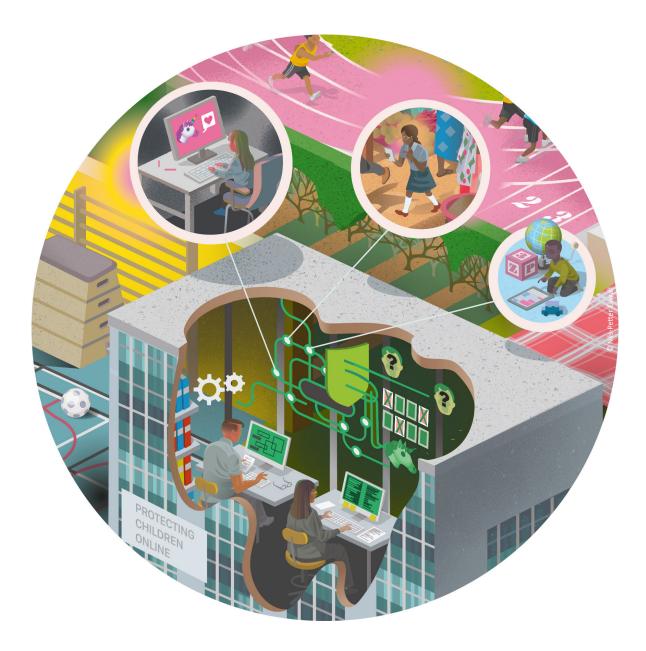
### Turnaround for Children USD 500,000 (2 years)

To support Turnaround for Children to develop an online toolbox so that educators can intentionally design learning environments that reveal the individual strengths and needs of students.

#### WestEd

### USD 800,000 (3 years)

To support WestEd's research and technical assistance work with schools, districts, and states to study, document, and support strong systems for identification and intervention for students with learning variability.



## Prevent Child Sexual Abuse

### Building a world together where children can thrive

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

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

the threat of sexual abuse. Most recently, this has perhaps never been more needed than in the online realm. We know that when children go online, neither they nor their parents are equipped to fend off the risks they face from vast technologies.

Oak and our partners share a simple vision: we believe that children should be able to explore the internet securely and free from seeing or being a victim of sexual abuse. This is the focus of this year's story.

## Protecting children from online sexual abuse

When 14-year-old Jordan first logs onto social media, his new Instagram account displays generic photos of nature. Yet as soon as Jordan begins 'following' friends and 'liking' content, his feed begins to fill with unsolicited sexualised images. The more he clicks to explore, the further he's propelled down a rabbit hole of harmful and illicit content. Strangers also begin to reach out, encouraging him to share private details, including his location, age, and photos.

Jordan, in this case, is only an avatar – a proxy for a real 14-year-old boy created by one of Oak's partners, the 5Rights Foundation, a UK-based organisation dedicated to ensuring that children can thrive online safely. To assess the dangers that children are exposed to on social media, 5Rights has created a series of avatars based on real children, ages 11 to 17, to document their online experiences.

5Rights has found that the online environment for kids is harrowing. Its research confirms what Facebook whistle-blower Frances Hauer has recently been testifying before world governments: social media is deliberately engineered to get children addicted to it – and it leaves children increasingly vulnerable to grooming, peer pressure, exploitation, and abuse.

Built-in features such as popularity metrics ('likes' and 'friends'), rewards, and pop-up recommendations entice children to use social media compulsively, to overshare information and imagery, and to engage with strangers online. As many as 75 per cent of the top 12 social media companies use their

algorithms to recommend children's profiles to strangers.<sup>1</sup>

This has facilitated a global explosion of online child sexual abuse images. The Internet Watch Foundation identified a rise of 77 per cent of 'self-produced' sexualised images or videos – made for friends or strangers - between 2019 and 2020. Often created as part of a romantic relationship or as a result of grooming, these images become part of a permanent digital footprint that can be used to blackmail people, and can be shared widely and over time. A new survey<sup>2</sup> by Economic Impact and WeProtect Global Alliance also finds that 54 per cent of young people worldwide now experience online sexual harm before they are 18, including grooming and recorded rape. For LGBTQI children, abuse rates are even higher.3

It's an ugly picture. Yet there is also reason to hope. Until recently, the burden of protecting children online has fallen on parents, charged with the impossible task of monitoring their children's every click. Societal efforts to combat online abuse, meanwhile, have mostly had to focus on getting child sexual abuse material or images removed from the internet after it's been created and uploaded.

But now, thanks to responsive governments, civic organisations, and passionate activists (including Oak's partners), the issue of online child sexual abuse has been catapulted into the global spotlight. Tech companies are being pressured to re-design their platforms so that child abuse is thwarted before it even happens.







**Caption:** The photos throughout the Prevent Child Sexual Abuse section of the report illustrate how children all over the world should be able to enjoy surfing online safely.

References: Please see page 66 of this report.

We believe that children should be able to explore the internet securely and free from seeing or being a victim of sexual abuse



Oak and our partners share a simple vision: we believe that children should be able to explore the internet securely and free from seeing or being a victim of sexual abuse. If tech companies tweak their social media designs, the tools that currently put children at risk can be transformed into the very tools that help keep children safe. It's a solution that's as elegant as it is imperative. The technology already exists; what's needed is the will.

"The tech sector has the ability to raise the ceiling and to give children back their childhood," says Baroness Beeban Kidron, founder and chair of 5Rights foundation. "The reason that parents, teachers, and children feel overwhelmed is that this is not a problem that parents, teachers, or kids can solve on their own."

5Rights has been instrumental in getting groundbreaking legislation, the Age Appropriate Design Code, implemented in the UK, making Great Britain a model for online child safety measures globally. To this end, Oak partners around the world are working to compel tech companies to adopt business and design practices that make child safety a top priority. This is as reasonable as insisting that automobile manufacturers install seatbelts in cars.

"When we get into cars, we take it for granted that seatbelts, airbags, and anti-lock brakes will help keep us safer. The safety is built-in – by design," says Julie Inman Grant, Australia's e-safety commissioner and a board member of Oak's partner, WeProtect Global Alliance, an international coalition dedicated to ending child sexual abuse online. "User safety should be as much a priority for the technology

companies as it is for the food, toy, and automotive industries."

Grant's team has developed Safety by Design, a set of new standards, assessments, and practices for tech companies. This approach has been endorsed by the G7 countries – and has already been implemented in Australia. Safety by Design tools are being offered free online to any tech company in the world that wants to adopt them, available here: <a href="https://www.esafety.gov.au/industry/safety-by-design/assessment-tools">www.esafety.gov.au/industry/safety-by-design/assessment-tools</a>

"The tech sector has the ability to give children back their childhood."

**Baroness Beeban Kidron** 

Similarly, Oak partner Parents
Together, a US-based not-for-profit
organisation that mobilises parents
against child sexual abuse, has
leveraged its 'parent power' to effect
changes in products and practices at
Twitter, Snapchat, and Amazon. After
Parents Together identified significant
illicit child abuse material and
dangerous practices on Periscope,
a livestreaming service owned by
Twitter, it ultimately compelled
Twitter to shut down Periscope.

Fairplay, another Oak partner working to prevent online child sexual abuse, is working towards the implementation of a code of standardised online protections for young people in the US similar to the UK's Age Appropriate Design Code. This is backed up by a growing body of research showing that excessive

social media use is linked to a number of risks for children and adolescents, including lower psychological wellbeing and an increased risk of depression. Additionally, social media platforms are being used to both share child sexual abuse material, and groom young users, and Instagram has faced criticism for failing to respond to reports of exploitation in a timely manner. This is why Fairplay's campaign, Risky by Design, puts the onus on tech companies to make child welfare the centrepiece of media platform design - and holds companies accountable if they fail to protect children's privacy. Recently, Fairplay succeeded in getting Facebook to delay and reconsider plans to release a version of Instagram targeted at children aged 8-13. Fairplay is also endorsing legislation in the US Congress, called the Kids Internet Design and Safety (KIDS) Act, to prohibit design features that exploit young people.

The sad reality is that when real children get online, neither they nor their parents are equipped to fend off the risks they face from vast technologies. But Oak's partners are determined to ensure that one day, kids everywhere will be able to use Snapchat with their friends, research the solar system for school, watch music videos on YouTube, or just goof around as kids, full of curiosity and creativity, without becoming prey.

Dr Rys Farthing, director of Children's Policy, Reset Australia, who previously worked with 5Rights, says, "Our vision is that young people should be able to go online as much and as often as they want to – wherever they are – and be as safe as they are when they go to play outside."

## Accountability and ending impunity

### A Breeze of Hope USD 450,000 (3 years)

To provide core support that will allow A Breeze of Hope to provide comprehensive legal, social, and psychological support to children victims of child sexual abuse in Bolivia.

### Athleten Deutschland e.V. USD 100,000 (1 year)

To guarantee the safety and wellbeing of athletes in Germany by advocating for a national strategy against violence and abuse in sport and promoting independent mechanisms to investigate abuse.

### Centre for Sport and Human Rights Ltd

### USD 1,633.403 (18 months)

To provide core support to the Centre for Sport and Human Rights to help it build the capacity of four host cities of the United 26 World Cup in the United States.

### Child Rights International Network

### USD 420,008 (3 years)

To end impunity for sexual violence within religious institutions in Latin America by using accountability as a necessary means of prevention.

### **CHILD USA**

#### USD 920,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to CHILD USA so that it can help make US elite sport safe for children, based on the Game Over Commission recommendations.

#### Commonwealth Sport Foundation

### USD 248,133 (30 months)

To hire a head of safeguarding to develop the Commonwealth Sport Movement's safeguarding strategy, including programmes, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

### Disability Rights International USD 100,000 (1 year)

To provide legal and advocacy support to children and young people with disabilities living in residential care in Bulgaria and Serbia.

#### **Equality Now**

### USD 799,924 (3 years)

To contribute to ending sexual violence against adolescent girls and improving the access of victims to justice in Tanzania, Bolivia, and the Latin American region.

#### ParentsTogether

#### USD 1,498,200 (3 years)

To help identify the biggest vulnerabilities for online child sexual exploitation and work to change the culture around Big Tech.

### Physicians for Human Rights USD 1,314,914 (3 years)

To provide support to the Physicians for Human Rights, which works to prevent sexual violence in conflict zones and stop impunity for sexual abuse against children.

#### Purpose

#### USD 400,000 (4 months)

To support two campaigns, in the US and in Japan, which aim to prevent child abuse in sports for the Tokyo Olympics.

#### Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network

### USD 1,400,000 (3 years)

To promote strong, datainformed, and victim-centred policies to prevent online child sexual abuse and hold technology companies accountable.

### Stichting Defence for Children International Nederland - ECPAT Nederland

### USD 85,149 (1 year)

To protect The Netherlands' international funding commitment to support work combatting sexual exploitation of children in Latin American and Asia.

### The National Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Children

### USD 1.194.361 (3 years)

To support the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children to ensure that social media and online messaging services protect children from online harms, including child sexual abuse.

#### Thorn

#### USD 250,000 (1 year)

To ensure that any legislative solutions and instruments coming from the EU build on and enhance the existing ecosystem of global actors working to protect children online.

#### **TSNE MissionWorks**

#### USD 1,000,000 (3 years)

To help reduce online child sexual abuse by influencing tech companies to create a safe online experience for young people.

### UNI Global Union, The World Players Association USD 249,042 (2 years)

To support the Sport and Rights Alliance, a coalition of leading global organisations which are working together on human rights, labour rights, children's rights, anti-corruption and sustainability in sport.

### UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund USD 4,500,000 (3 years)

To support the Safe Online initiative of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children to build s tronger systems, networks, and technology solutions to make the Internet safe for children.

### University of Massachusetts, Amherst USD 250,000 (18 months)

To measure toxicity and grooming targeted at children through apps, and to evaluate the quality of content moderation by the tech industry.

### Solutions and advancing action

### CARE Deutschland – Luxemburg USD 250,000 (18 months)

To support Care Balkans to continue contributing to a positive and peaceful society for young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo through the Young Men Initiative (YMI), which works to promote gender equality and decrease interpersonal violence.

### CDC Foundation

#### USD 5,785,842 (4 years)

To support the CDC in funding critical research gaps to strengthen the evidence base for preventing youth- or adult-perpetrated child sexual abuse.

### Deafkidz International

### USD 487,344 (3 years)

To provide core support to Deafkidz International to continue developing its safeguarding and protection programme for deaf children against sexual abuse in South Africa.

### International Center for Research on Women - Uganda USD 900,000 (3 years)

To build evidence on child sexual abuse prevention measures in Uganda and Tanzania through technical and learning support to implementing partners.

### Johns Hopkins University USD 1,043,937 (3 years)

To support the Global Early Adolescent Study in its mission to reduce gender inequality among early adolescents and promote healthy transitions into adulthood, free from sexual violence.

### Lucy Faithfull Foundation USD 500,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to The Lucy Faithfull Foundation to continue to prevent the sexual abuse of children.

### Makerere University College of Health Sciences USD 484,725 (28 months)

To test the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of the Parenting for Respectability parenting programme for reducing violence against children and violence in the home.

### männer.ch

### USD 250,000 (15 months)

To enable männer.ch to develop a business model to sustain its MenCare programme in Switzerland.

### Pathfinder International USD 1,250,000 (40 months)

To reduce the risk of sexual violence occurring against children in Unguja, Zanzibar.

### Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina Inc

### USD 152,734 (19 months) To conduct an analysis of the

extent of child sexual abuse in North Carolina, as well as the needs, gaps, resources, and practices for its prevention.



#### Swiss Philanthropy Foundation

### USD 1,130,000 (3 years)

To provide core and project support to four early childhood development regional networks in Africa, Asia, and the Arab world to integrate a gender-transformative approach focused on positively engaging men in their children's lives.

### University of Oxford -Department of Social Policy and Intervention

### USD 4,999,997 (5 years)

To support the Global Parenting Initiative to provide access to free, evidence-based parenting support, so that parents are equipped with knowledge and tools to protect their children from sexual, physical, and emotional abuse.

### World Education Inc. / Bantwana

### USD 1,085,039 (3 years)

To reduce child sexual abuse across 20 schools and neighbouring communities in three districts of Western Uganda.

### Strategic opportunities

### Child Helpline International USD 936,744 (30 months)

To develop the Aselo platform, an open source, customisable, cloud-based contact centre that will allow children to reach counselors through phone, SMS, webchat, Facebook Messenger, and WhatsApp.

### Darkness to Light

### USD 2,524,864 (2 years)

To provide core support to Darkness to Light and allocated support to the Keep Kids Safe movement.

### Freedom Fund

### USD 1,205,255 (3 years)

To protect and uphold the rights of children working in domestic servitude in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia by challenging abuses against child domestic workers and creating ethical living and working conditions for them.

### Swiss Philanthropy Foundation USD 500,000 (18 months)

To set-up a small-grants fund at Swiss Philanthropy Foundation (SPF) that will support initiatives to combat child sexual abuse online and in sports.

### Together for Girls USD 10,325,981 (4 years)

To end sexual violence against children by 2030 by catalysing a global movement of survivors and allies to advocate for transformative change.

### Women's Refugee Commission USD 500,000 (3 years)

To improve the protection and safeguarding of adolescent boys and youth, including those with diverse gender identities and sexual orientations, displaced by conflict and crises.

### Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation USD 759,607 (30 months)

To manage exit grants in Bulgaria for long-term partners of the Prevent Child Sexual Abuse Programme and to provide them with capacity-building support.



## | Special Interest

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

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

Oak also makes Special Initiative grants every year, which are usually one-off large grants with a big purpose. We have listed these grants, along with a capacity-building grant and a child-safeguarding grant, on page 52.

# Creating a centre to advance eye health



Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is a specialist eye hospital based in London, England. It is a world-class centre of excellence for ophthalmology research and education and is the UK's leading provider of eye care services, seeing around 780,000 patient visits a year. In partnership with the University College London's (UCL) Institute of Ophthalmology and other strategic partners, it conducts world-leading research, turning this into innovative treatments and ways of working. In fact, it sees so many patients with such a broad range of conditions that it is in a prime position to gather comprehensive data on how to treat eye disorders, and share it around the world.

The hospital's current buildings were built over 120 years ago, at a time when hospital care was provided very differently to how it is now. "The configuration of our existing building offers little scope for true integration between the clinical, research, and teaching elements of our work and has an impact on the speed at which we can work and our ability to innovate," says Rachel Jones, director of development at Moorfields Eye Charity.

Oriel is the joint initiative between Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology, and Moorfields Eye Charity to create a new, integrated centre in St Pancras, London. This is within London's Knowledge Quarter, which has one of the highest densities of knowledge-

based, cultural, and scientific businesses anywhere in the world. The combination of Moorfields and the UCL Institute of Ophthalmology marks a collaboration between two world-class institutions under one roof, right in the heart of London. "This single centre will enable clinicians and researchers to work alongside one another with optimal access to patients," says Rachel. "Our research will be enhanced, which will have a clinical and s ocietal impact."

With an aging UK population, Moorfields expects the number of people with eye conditions such as cataracts, glaucoma, macular degeneration, and diabetic eye disease to rise rapidly over the next 15 years. These increased needs will be met by streamlining diagnostics and treatment, improving patient experience, and speeding up research and clinical progress.

Creating a new facility, purpose-built for the future, will enable Moorfields to physically integrate the adult and children's hospital and the Institute for the first time. Of Moorfields annual patient visits, about 70,000 are children and young people. "We are seeing more and more people with rare conditions, and that's particularly true for children, because a lot of the rare diseases are genetic," says Robert Dufton, chief executive of Moorfields Eye Charity. "And it's only Moorfields that sees enough cases to be able to draw information and widely share the knowledge of how to treat them."

For example, the 3D printed prosthetic eye<sup>1</sup> pioneered by Moorfields could be adapted to children. This is important because children needing a prosthetic eye regularly have to undergo re-fittings with wax moulds as they grow. "This is an uncomfortable process for the child that often requires anaesthesia," says Rachel. "Now, the measurements can be done with a simple scan, and a wax mould is no longer needed."

"Moving to the new building is about delivery," says Robert. "This move will transform how we combine clinical care, education, and research. Patient involvement is critical to our planning as they give their input and help influence the changes going forward."

The partnership between Moorfields and UCL is not just about eye health, but also about brain health. By bringing medical experts in close contact with each other, this brings another dimension to the work. It seems the sky is the limit in terms of possibility, and we at Oak Foundation are excited about what the future holds. This is the second Oak grant to Moorfields Eye Charity to support Moorfields Eye Hospital and UCL. If you would like to know more, check out the online version of this report to watch the video about the first grant.<sup>2</sup>

**Caption, above:** Playtime at Moorfields Eye Hospital.

References: Please see page 66 of this report.

### Supporting Native American communities to protect their land

The Colorado Plateau in the southwestern United States is one of the world's richest bio-cultural landscapes. It is probably best known for being the home of the Grand Canyon, a place of solace for many and a region of great significance for tribal nations. The area contains the 'four corners states' which are Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona. Eight tribes govern more than a third of the Colorado Plateau region.

"We have seen the immense power of Native people to catalyse change."

Jim Enote, CEO

Industrial development and extractive indus tries threaten the Plateau's land, water, and cultures. The Colorado Plateau Foundation (CPF) helps Native-led organisations to protect water, sacred places, endangered landscapes, and sustainable agriculture. In addition, CPF strengthens the organisational and community capacity of its grantees.

"We respond to community needs and seek direction from cultural and community leaders to identify key focus areas for work on the Plateau," says Jim Enote, CEO of the Colorado Plateau Foundation. Most of the Colorado Plateau Foundation staff are tribal members who live in the communities where they work. "This means we are well-positioned to communicate and share how the Native communities in the region live and what they need to be resilient and to protect the natural environments we live in," says Jim.

Since 2012, the Colorado Plateau Foundation has provided USD 3.5 million in grants for more than 125 Native initiatives. These grants have supported projects including: creating a language app to help preserve the Acoma language; setting up a trauma-informed learning programme; strengthening leadership capacity; and protecting the Colorado Plateau's water and Hopi community health.



"We know Native communities have solutions to solve some of the Plateau's most pressing challenges," says Jim. "The CPF staff are deeply concerned and informed about the Plateau's Native communities, including their economic, cultural, social, and political outlooks, and we have seen the immense power of Native people to catalyse change."

If you want to find out more about the Colorado Plateau Foundation, check out its website: <a href="https://coloradoplateaufoundation.org/">https://coloradoplateaufoundation.org/</a>

**Caption (above):** The Colorado Plateau Foundation (CPF) helps Native-led organisations to protect water, sacred places, endangered landscapes, and sustainable agriculture. In the above picture, programme participants posed for a photo during a trip to Bears Ears in 2019. The Acoma Learning Center provides services that aim to improve and enrich people's lives through information, education, tradition, and recreation.

## Singing is the best medicine

Everyone knows that singing is good for you, but young patients in Birmingham Children's hospital realise this more than the average person. This is because Ex Cathedra, a leading UK choir, which works in partnership with the Birmingham Children's Hospital, brings the benefits of singing to children who are undergoing treatment in the hospital.

Singing evokes feelings of wellbeing, and can stimulate or calm the body, reducing stress and increasing healing. The Singing Medicine programme works through positive and inclusive interactive songs and singing games. The team sing songs and share singing games they have created with the patients. The aim is to improve the wellbeing of children through positive and inclusive interactive songs and singing games. "Singing Medicine makes you feel better and helps you play," says one six-year old patient.

"Singing Medicine makes you feel better and helps you play."

### Six-year old patient

"He really enjoys himself and can feel that bit brighter," says the parent of one child who benefits from the sessions provided through Singing Medicine. "There's a reason to get to the end of the week – because Singing Medicine is going to be there."

Singing Medicine has had a presence at Birmingham Children's Hospital since 2004, growing from strength to strength since then. The programme was awarded 'Outstanding Contribution to the Field of Arts in Health', and, at the beginning of 2021, won the won the 'Community Project' award at the Classical Music Digital

**Caption (right):** Ex Cathedra, a leading UK choir, which works in partnership with the Birmingham Children's Hospital, brings the benefits of singing to children who are undergoing treatment in the hospital. Here they are in action, prior to Covid-19.

References: Please see page 66 of this report.

Awards. Additionally, its sessions have been delivered at various other hospitals around the UK, as well as in Auckland, New Zealand, and Singapore. When physical visits were restricted during the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, Singing Medicine adapted to the situation and ensured its continued presence in patients' lives. Among other activities, the team has created nearly 2,000 films including their special 'Singing Medicine Postcards', made on request for each child.

The benefits provided by Singing Medicine are boundless, as young people are helped through their treatment. It also enables participants to further develop their personal, social, musical, educational skills, and confidence. In addition, parents and families have the chance to be actively involved, giving them the opportunity to do something enjoyable and interactive with their children.

Check out our online report to watch a video of the music tutors at work.<sup>1</sup>



# Transforming lives on Hawaii Island



Hawaii is home to beautiful coral reefs and marine life that provide food, jobs, cultural connection, and a way of life for local residents, while also supporting a billion-dollar tourism economy. It is also home to communities that strive to live in balance with their ecosystem.

Established over a century ago, the Hawaii Community Foundation (HCF) desires to transform lives and improve communities. It envisions an equitable and vibrant Hawai'i, where all island communities thrive. The Special Interest programme has provided grants to the HCF since 2018.

Hawaii is in a seismic zone. In 2018, a lava flow swallowed up 700 homes in Pahoa, in the district of Puna. Given the regularity of volcanic activity on the island, residents began thinking about alternative housing solutions. "Homelessness is a crisis throughout our entire community," says Brandee Menino, CEO of Hope Services.

"There's a concern – is it worth investing in housing in this community because of the potential of the lava threat? So we really had to go back to the table to figure out a different way of building housing. And an idea came – well, why don't we make transportable homes?"

Supported by HCF, Hope Services worked with the local communities to build trailer-homes on wheels

that could simply be moved to a safe place the next time there is a volcanic eruption. "This is real action, a real example of communities coming together, building stronger, building better," says Brandee. "Our hope is that this can be replicated all throughout the state, so that real affordable homes can happen, here in our community."

HCF also seeks to strengthen Hawaiian culture through language. The Hawaiian language remains on the list of the world's endangered languages, and in order to preserve it, HCF supported Hale Kipa 'Ōiwi's project to teach Hawaiian to school children. Called 'Ahā Pūnana Leo, the project has taken off and there are now 13 pre-schools teaching the language across the state. "It's heartwarming to have my grandchildren speak Hawaiian," says Namaka Rawlins, senior director of Hale Kipa 'Ōiwi.

On average, 48 per cent of Hawaii island residents are either in poverty, or living below United Way's Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed threshold, also known as the ALICE Threshold. <sup>1,2</sup> With a heavy reliance on tourism, the unemployment rate for the island jumped from an average of 3.1 per cent in 2019 (with a low of 2.3 per cent in December) to nearly 11.5 per cent in 2020<sup>3</sup> (with a high of 22 per cent in April 2020).

The Elama Project gives young people who ordinarily would not choose to attend college the chance to do a year of college-level studies. Kai Mahana Pai trained to be a chef as part of the Elama Project. "I told my parents I really want to come here because I love cooking," he says. "There are so many opportunities I had never gotten, but now, since I'm here, I am so grateful."

In addition, HCF's 'Marine 30x30' project aims to protect and revitalise natural resources, and convert 30 per cent of Hawaii's nearshore waters into marine management areas by 2030. It is hoped that this level of protection will help prevent mass extinctions, preserve critical ecosystem services, and help avert the worst impacts of climate change. "By bolstering the implementation of this initiative, HCF hopes to protect and restore Hawaii's unique nearshore marine environments," says Micah Kāne, CEO of HCF.

Read more about the work of the Hawaii Community
Foundation on it's website: www.
hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/
Otherwise, check out Oak's YouTube channel for a great video about HCF's work!

**Caption, above:** The Hawaii Community Foundation is transforming lives and improving communities In Hawaii.

References: Please see page 66 of this report.

## Defending the rights of immigrant children

Between April and December 2021, the number of children encountered by United States border control on the border to Mexico escalated to more than 26,000, compared with just under 10,000 in the same period the year before.

In response to the increased number of children entering the US across its southern border, the current US administration opened more than a dozen emergency intake sites and influx facilities, placing thousands of children in convention centres, military bases, and oil worker camps. The National Center for Youth Law immigration attorneys have conducted 19 site visits, interviewed more than 230 children detained in these facilities, and uncovered conditions that are unsafe, unsanitary, and damaging to children's physical and mental wellbeing. Children have reported severe overcrowding, extremely limited access to showers, recreation, and education, and most concerning, deteriorating mental health and suicidal ideation.

The National Center for Youth Law works in the US with children such as these. It strives to ensure that immigrant children can live in communities, rather than in government custody, with the support they need to heal and thrive. The National Center for Youth Law works with all youth-serving systems across the United States, including immigration, child welfare, juvenile justice, education, and health. "One of our core objectives is to ensure detained immigrant children are released whenever possible, and treated with respect and dignity while detained," says Jesse Hahnel, executive director of the National Center for Youth Law.

Currently, the immigration system in place in the US does not adequately support the needs of unaccompanied immigrant children. Through the work of the National Center for Youth Law, it is hoped that the public and federal policymakers will see the need for systemic change, putting in place policies and processes that ensure immigrant children are only detained when necessary and for minimal time. It is also hoped that these children receive adequate supports and services both in detention and when released.

"We are fighting for a world in which every child has a full and fair opportunity to achieve the future they

envision for themselves," says Jesse. "Unfortunately, most of our current youth-serving systems suffer from embedded structural inequities and fail to provide young people the supports and opportunities they need, particularly those who come from communities of colour and/or low-income backgrounds. What we do is partner with youth, families, and communities to hold those systems accountable and transform them altogether when necessary."

Over the past several months, the National Center for Youth Law played a key role within the group of advocates that persuaded the White House to reverse course on the Flores regulations. These proposed regulations would have removed and weakened protections for children held in custody due to immigration laws.

It is clear that the National Center for Youth Law is doing great work in its efforts to ensure that detained children are treated with dignity and respect. To find out more about its work, check out its website here: <a href="https://www.youthlaw.org/">www.youthlaw.org/</a>.



**Caption:** A man protests against US laws allowing children to be separated from their parents at the border between the US and Mexico.

### **Aesop Arts and Society** USD 200,000 (2 years)

To provide core support to Aesop Arts and Society, based in Oxfordshire, the United Kingdom.

### **Australian Wildlife Conservancy** USD 983,305 (3 years)

To support Australian Wildlife Conservancy to restore endangered wildlife in the Newhaven and Mt Zero-Taravale wildlife sanctuaries in Australia.

#### **Best Beginnings**

#### USD 132,005 (1 year)

To support Best Beginnings to develop the Breastfeeding Alliance in the UK in order to raise breastfeeding up the policy agenda and improve breastfeeding rates.

### **Bridge II Sports**

### USD 400,000 (4 years)

To develop and implement opportunities for youth, adults, and veterans with physical disabilities to play individual, team, and recreational sports.

### **Colorado Plateau Foundation** USD 600,000 (3 years)

To provide core support for the Colorado Plateau Foundation based in the US.

### **Combat Stress**

### USD 1,333,332 (3 years)

To provide core support to Combat Stress to give timely and effective clinical treatment to UK military veterans who suffer from psychological wounds.

#### **Concussion Legacy** Foundation, Inc.

#### USD 350,000 (3 years)

To raise awareness and provide guidance on brain injuries by educating sports journalists and launching a helpline.

### **Confederation of Indian Industry** USD 200,000 (1 year)

To assist with the Covid-19 response in India with a focus on nutrition and livelihood support in West Bengal.

### **Conservation Collective**

### USD 400,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to the Conservation Collective which aims to protect the environment, restore nature, and safeguard against climate change.

### The Courtauld Institute of Art USD 400,000 (4 months)

To renovate the Courtauld Institute of Art in London so that it is fit for purpose as a leading art gallery and academic institution.

### The Courtauld Institute of Art USD 691,593 (3 years)

To support the Courtauld Institute of Art's programme Transforming the Future of Young People in the UK.

#### **DASH ARTS**

### USD 200,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to DASH Arts to strengthen the organisation's infrastructure, improve sustainability, and expand its artistic programme.

### **Duke University Health** System DBA Duke Hospice USD 250,000 (2 years)

To build and implement a comprehensive caregiver support programme for patients and caregivers served by the Duke academic health system as well as the broader community.

### **Durham Technical Community College Foundation**

### USD 300,000 (3 years)

To improve early credit completion of Durham Tech students based in North Carolina, the US, and reduce inequities by race and gender.

### **Elon University**

### USD 1,250,000 (5 years)

To create a collaborative university/public school tutoring initiative to support the academic attainments of struggling students who attend the 12 elementary schools in Alamance County, North Carolina.

### **ESCA CancerSupport**

### USD 219,780 (2 years)

To provide core support to ESCA CancerSupport, based in Geneva, Switzerland, in its work to provide emotional support, practical help, wellbeing activities, and a welcoming community in English to anyone affected by cancer.

#### Ex Cathedra

### USD 300,000 (3 years)

To support Ex Cathedra, a leading UK choir, to deliver Singing Medicine – a programme which aims to improve the wellbeing of children at Birmingham Children's Hospital through positive and inclusive interactive songs and singing games.

### **Foundation for Change**

### USD 519,481 (3 years)

To provide core support to Foundation for Change.

### Galapagos Conservancy, Inc. USD 220,000 (2 years)

To support the mission of the Galapagos Conservancy to protect the unique biodiversity and ecosystems of the Galapagos.

#### **Give Foundation** dba Give India

### USD 200,000 (1 year)

To assist with the Covid-19 response in India with a focus on livelihood support in West Bengal.

### **Glasswing International USA** USD 2.000.000 (66 months)

To break cycles of violence in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras through communitybased mental health support.

### Global Philanthropy Partnership USD 250,000 (2 years)

To support efforts led by Black and Indigenous people across the United States to use food systems as a catalyst to address racism in their communities.

### Goldsmiths, University of London

#### USD 666,667 (5 years)

To provide core support to the Centre for Contemporary Art at Goldsmiths, University of London.

#### **Good Shepherd International Foundation ONLUS**

### USD 2,976,190 (5 years)

To provide support to Good Shepherd International Foundation and its partners in more than 35 countries to improve the lives of vulnerable children, girls, and women.

### **Havens Hospices**

### USD 666,667 (5 years) To provide core support for

Fair Havens Hospice in the UK to ensure people within Southend, Castle Point, and Rochford affected by a complex or incurable condition receive the hospice care they need.

### **Hawaii Community Foundation** USD 2,250,000 (3 years)

To support Hawaii Community Foundation to address economic impacts from Covid-19 through the Hawaii Island Strong Fund.

#### **Humentum UK**

#### USD 400,000 (39 months)

To align and improve financial reports in not-for-profit organisations around the world, in order to increase accountability and transparency.

### **Hunger Heroes** dba Feeding India by Zomato USD 300,000 (15 months)

To assist with the Covid-19 response in India with a focus on nutrition support in West Bengal.

### Marian Cheek Jackson Center for Saving and Making History

### USD 500,000 (3 years)

To honour, renew, and build community in the historic Northside and Pine Knolls neighbourhoods of Chapel Hill and Carrboro, North Carolina.

### **Marie Curie**

### USD 1,333,333 (3 years)

To provide core support to Marie Curie in the United Kingdom.

### **Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center**

### USD 499,510 (3 years)

To support Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, and to build capacity in cancer research in Nigeria by providing training and mentoring opportunities.

### Modrehjaelpen (Mothers' Aid)

#### USD 643,087 (3 years)

To provide support to Modrehjaelpen (Mothers' Aid) in Denmark, which works to help single parents, pregnant women, and families in vulnerable situations.

#### myAgro

### USD 3,000,000 (5 years)

To encourage a greater yield and increased food security in Africa by scaling up myAgro's innovative financial tool, which helps small-scale farmers save for major, up-front purchases like fertiliser and seeds.

### National Center for Youth Law USD 400,000 (1 year)

To defend the rights of migrant children in detention centres in the United States and improve the immigration system.

### National Centre for Creative Health

USD 200,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to the National Centre for Creative Health, based in the UK, for its efforts to improve health and wellbeing through art and creativity.

### Operation Homefront, Inc. USD 675,000 (3 years)

To build strong, stable and secure military families in the US, so they can thrive in the communities they have worked to protect.

### Our Military Kids Inc USD 200,000 (3 years)

To provide support and recognition to children of deployed National Guard and Reserve service members and wounded veterans from all branches of service in the US.

### Pancreatic Cancer UK USD 1,000,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to Pancreatic Cancer UK, supporting its investments in research and its work on data and intelligence to drive policy changes and improve treatment and care for patients with pancreatic cancer.

### Queensland Ballet Company USD 2,000,000 (42 months)

To support the Queensland Ballet Company's Jette Parker Young Artist Program, a yearlong apprenticeship programme offering young talented dancers a career pathway and building the next generation of internationally sought-after dancers.

### Re:wild

### USD 300,000 (3 years)

To support Fundación Rewilding Argentina in its mission to confront and reverse the biodiversity crisis and the resulting environmental degradation.

### Safe Horizon

#### USD 1,800,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to Safe Horizon's Streetwork Project in New York.

### Save the Children India -Bal Raksha Bharat

### USD 135,000 (1 year)

To assist with the Covid-19 response in India with a focus in West Bengal.

### SECU Family House at UNC Hospitals

#### USD 300,000 (3 years)

To provide core support to SECU Family House at UNC Hospital, which provides a safe, nurturing, affordable home for patients and their loved ones who travel great distances to the University of North Carolina Hospitals for life-saving procedures and serious illnesses.

### Self-Help (Center for Community Self-Help)

#### USD 500,000 (2 years)

To further Self-Help's mission of creating and protecting economic opportunity in low-wealth and underserved communities such as Southeast Raleigh, North Carolina.

### Shine Cancer Support USD 345,440 (3 years)

To provide core support to Shine Cancer Support, based in the UK, for its work to support the delivery of programmes and resources that improve the lives of young adults living with cancer.

### Sophia Point Rainforest Project USD 500,000 (5 years)

To create Sophia Point, Guyana's first accessible wildlife and rainforest research centre.

### Student U

### USD 1,000,000 (4 years)

To empower and equip firstgeneration college students in Durham Public Schools, their families, and educators to become the leaders that will transform the city.

### Swiss Philanthropy Foundation USD 490.000 (15 months)

To provide core support to Partners for a New Economy, an international donors' collaborative fund hosted by Swiss Philanthropy Foundation.

### Swiss Philanthropy Foundation USD 3,550,119 (3 years)

To provide core support to the European Environment and Health Initiative to improve EU policies on endocrine disrupting chemicals by strengthening civil society engagement.

### Synchronicity Earth USD 242,667 (28 months)

To support Synchronicity Earth to develop the Amphibian Conservation Fund.



### Terre des hommes Lausanne USD 200,000 (1 year)

To assist with the Covid-19 response in India with a focus on nutrition and livelihood support in West Bengal.

### The Association for a UN Live Museum USD 500,000 (2 years)

To support UN Live in its core mission to connect people everywhere, especially youth, to the work and values of the United Nations.

### The Endangered Wildlife Trust

### USD 300,000 (3 years)

To support the Endangered Wildlife Trust's Carnivore Conservation Programme to reintroduce large carnivores, including wild dogs and cheetahs, into protected areas in Mozambique.

### The International Land and Forest Tenure Facility USD 5,000,000 (5 years)

To support tenure security and territorial governance initiatives of Indigenous Peoples in the Amazon region, and to strengthen their organisational capacity to meet demand.

### The Line Art Walk USD 422,783 (3 years)

To connect communities and inspire individuals through a world-class outdoor exhibition programme called The Line, London's first dedicated public art walk.

### The Microbiota Vault, Inc. USD 267,650 (2 years)

To provide core support to the Microbiota Vault Inc. to preserve microbial diversity globally.

### Uncommon.org Inc.

### USD 300,000 (3 years)

To provide core support for Uncommon.org Inc, an organisation working to empower Zimbabweans from low-income communities with technology education and employment opportunities.

### **University of Kent**

#### USD 1,333,333 (5 years)

To support the newly established Kent and Medway Medical School in increasing the supply of doctors in Kent's coastal areas, which faces a high demand for health support in the face of population growth.

### University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

#### USD 500,000 (3 years)

To improve knowledge of contemporary Africa through K-5 education in North Carolina.

### Urban Culture & Heritage Initiative

#### USD 300,000 (3 years)

To support Urban Culture and Heritage Initiative Trust to develop the Mbare Art Space, a vibrant community-oriented art studio centre in Zimbabwe.

### US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)

#### USD 1,200,000 (3 years)

To support USCRI to expand its mental health and legal representation programme in North Carolina to the Washington, D.C. area.

### Victoria and Albert Museum USD 333,333 (22 months)

To establish Young V&A as a world-leading museum of design and creativity for children and young people and to build community engagement with art and design at a time of need.

### WWF Schweiz

### USD 549,451 (4 months)

To support WWF in its efforts to build a climate-neutral future in Switzerland.

## Other Grants

### Special initiative

#### ClimateWorks Foundation, USA

### USD 10,000,000 (3 years)

To support the Drive Electric campaign to accelerate the transition towards pollution-free cars.

### High Point University

### USD 5,500,000 (5 years)

To establish a Center for Community Engagement at High Point University in the City of High Point, North Carolina.

### Moorfields Eye Charity

#### USD 13,333,333 (3 years) To support Moorfields Eye

Hospital NHS Foundation
Trust, the UCL Institute of
Ophthalmology and Moorfields
Eye Charity to build together
a world-class eye-health facility
in London, for integrated clinical
care, teaching, and research.

### **Capacity building**

### INTRAC

### USD 94,400 (1 year)

To allow Oak partners to have access to higher quality capacity strengthening services locally.

### Child Safeguarding

### Global Fund for Children USD 200,000 (1 year)

To support the newly established Funder Safeguarding Collaborative.



## Brazil

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

Supporting communities in the pursuit of social and environmental justice is a key aim of the Brazil Programme. By developing new ways to prevent violence, mediate conflict, and document the reality of underrepresented sectors, our partners contribute to deepening democracy and encouraging inclusive public debates.

In Brazil, escalating violence has made life increasingly difficult, especially for those who experience

marginalisation due to their race, ethnic identity, gender, and socio-economic position.

The kind of civic debate that is needed to conceive effective and just solutions is being undermined by a public discourse that has become highly antagonistic, sharply divided, and hostile towards the voice of those most affected by violence and injustice. In the article on the following pages we outline the work of our partners to address this issue.

### **Encouraging public debate**

Most of us have heard of or experienced the dynamics of polarisation in our lives: groups of people with similar societal views start to organise into echo chambers, and their sense of belonging grows along with their distrust and disapproval of others.

As in many countries, the effects of extreme polarisation in Brazil are felt across multiple areas of public life, undermining public debate on key societal issues. The Brazil Programme supports organisations at the cutting edge of efforts to improve the equity, transparency, and overall tenor of public discourse.

Through the media, our grantee partners have been increasing the transparency, independence, and diversity of newsrooms, while also defending human rights and the rule of law. "Nowadays, polarised outlets get more funding. We are trying to change that by strengthening networks that support quality journalism," says Sérgio Buarque, from Marco Zero Conteúdo, an independent news outlet focused on social justice and socio-environmental issues. The outlet has done in-depth reporting on gender-based political violence, and has covered violent police crackdowns on pro-democracy demonstrations. Meanwhile, independent investigative journalism outlet Agência Pública gathered data on Black people's access to healthcare, prompting the National Health Council to publish recommendations for anti-racist practices across public medical services and Covid-19 vaccination campaigns.

A polarised political environment increases the barriers to the political participation of underrepresented and historically marginalised communities. Instituto Update works to ensure that they have a meaningful voice in democratic processes. Its web series Eleitas showcased the creativity and innovation of women in politics across Latin America, reaching nearly one million viewers. "Learning about the recent history of women in politics can reframe our perspective on democracy, ultimately strengthening political participation and trust in institutions," says executive director Beatriz Dalla Costa.

Disinformation and misinformation about Covid-19 has caused serious risks to public safety. Quid, a digital communications and mobilisation lab, came up with a strategy: "One can chase after disinformation and try to correct it, or pressure digital platforms to change their policies," says their director, Pedro Telles. "But there is also a third option: how about we create a web of reliable information that is just as powerful as the disinformation

networks?" Instituto Tecnologia e Sociedade, an organisation that monitors the impact of technology on the future of Brazil and the world, also contributed to just that: through a chatbot, it helped deliver trusted information about the pandemic to Brazilians.

Research conducted by Centro de Estudos de Segurança e Cidadania (CESeC) showed how, in 2017 alone, the states of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro together spent almost USD 1 billion on combating drug trafficking and use — without a significant decrease in violence and crime rates. "This [drug prohibition] policy authorises the police to kill and the criminal justice system to incarcerate. And it has a financial cost. How much of our tax money is being channelled to this?" asks coordinator, Julita Lemgruber.

In a related development, Iniciativa Negra por uma Nova Política de Drogas monitored the 2021 state budgets in São Paulo and Bahia, uncovering disproportionate allocations for the criminal justice system and underfunding of public health, social assistance, and culture. It has denounced rights violations at the municipal, state, and federal levels and is working towards the adoption of a more evidence-based, humane, and effective drug policy.

Our grant-making in Brazil continues to strive to deepen democracy, uphold human and socio-environmental rights, and promote an inclusive, transparent public debate. To find out more, please visit the Brazil page on our website: <a href="https://www.oakfnd.org/programmes/brazil/">www.oakfnd.org/programmes/brazil/</a>.





### Centro de Trabalho Indigenista USD 383,835 (3 years)

To strengthen Indigenous organisations and pro-Indigenous coalitions in Brazil and support the full implementation of their territorial and cultural rights.

### Fundação Tide Azevedo Setubal USD 288,752 (2 years)

To support the capacity of civil society actors and democratic institutions to develop and disseminate effective and coordinated narratives to uphold democracy in Brazil.

### Instituto Marielle Franco USD 380,833 (3 years)

To research, document, and advocate for strategies aimed at reducing violence in Brazil.

### Iniciativa Negra por uma Nova Política sobre Drogas

USD 100,000 (1 year)

To strengthen the Brazil Drug Policy Platform institutionally so that it can intensify its advocacy, research, and monitoring efforts in the drug policy field.

### Instituto Betty e Jacob Lafer USD 129,182 (2 years)

To strengthen the capacity and legitimacy of small and mediumsized not-for-profit organisations working strategically to uphold democracy and address systemic violence in Brazil.

### Instituto Brasileiro de Direito Urbanistico USD 95,411 (1 year)

To strengthen the land rights of urban communities in the north-eastern region of Brazil andto consolidate the institutional structures of the Brazilian Centre for Urbanistic Law (IBDU).

### Marco Zero Conteúdo USD 433,354 (4 years)

To strengthen independent journalism in the northeast of Brazil and its coverage of violence, human rights, and socio-environmental rights.

### Captions:

**Above:** Supporting communities in the pursuit of social and environmental justice is a key aim of the Brazil Programme. Left: A wall portrait in downtown São Paulo, 2020, by artist Mundano, the founder of our partner Movimento dos Pimpadores, recreates the work "Operários" by Tarsila do Amaral. Mundano used the toxic mud from the collapse of a tailings dam in Brumadinho in creating the mural. The wall draws public attention to the greatest socio-environmental disaster in the history of Brazil.



## Oak Foundation Denmark

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

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

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

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

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

## Where hopes and dreams find a home

"Join in and be heard." This is what is written on the wall of the Joanna House, Denmark's only crisis centre for children and youth, in Copenhagen. There in the kitchen, community members can sign up to give lectures at primary schools, share their stories with the media, or contribute advice on how the house should be run. Active democratic participation, influence, and involvement have been fundamental values from day one.

Joanna House is home for young vulnerable people under the age of 18. These include children who are experiencing, for example, violence or other disruptions at home, who have dropped out of school, or who may be sleeping on the street. There are no official numbers on how many people under 18 are homeless in Denmark, but a third of  $\Omega$ the children who come to the Joanna House are experiencing some form of homelessness.

These people are also characterised by raw courage and strength. "The mere fact that they are showing up at the door of the Joanna House shows a desire to change their situation and have their voices be heard," says Esther Norregard-Nielsen, director of the Oak Foundation Denmark Programme.

Since the Joanna House opened its doors in August 2020, it has had 276 requests from children all over Denmark, of which 212 were made in person. The youngest was just eight years old. Young people can contact the Joanna House around the clock and do not need an appointment. They can access care, food, get washed, and avail of anonymous, rights-based counselling, and emergency shelter.

From day one, it was important that the Joanna House should feel like a safe home. Sterile offices were replaced with open doors, bright spaces, and a sense of community. Everyone, both children and adults, take off their shoes before they enter – just like at home. It is a central base for young people, and they have been involved in its creation.

Nine employees, 25 students, and 50 volunteers work at Joanna House, and all support its vision, based on the fundamental rights of young people, as defined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. "Some of Joanna House's biggest successes so far have been to promote the civil rights of young people through participation in public debate and

meetings with decision-makers," says Jette Wilhelmsen, director of the Joanna House. "Children and young people have so much to offer and are so resourceful. That's why we must create space for their hopes and dreams, and why it is so important to always amplify children's voices."

The Joanna House is also in the process of establishing the "Joanna Council" – an advisory body comprised of young people, as they are the experts, and adult board members with personal experiences similar to those of the house's target group.

"In ten years, we will hopefully be recognised as a national crisis centre for children and youth in Copenhagen, and included in the state budget," says Jette. "But these issues are not isolated to Copenhagen, so we will also evaluate where it might make sense to place other similar centres. As pioneers, we are collecting all our experience so that others can benefit from it."

Congratulations to the team at the Joanna Centre from all of us at Oak for all their efforts to support young people at crisis points in their lives! To learn more about how Oak Foundation Denmark seeks innovative solutions that improve the daily lives and future prospects of socially vulnerable and marginalised groups, check out our website: www.oakfnd.dk



### Betesda Rehabilitering

#### USD 24,116 (1 year)

To provide support to Betesda Rehabilitering, an addiction treatment centre.

#### Blæksprutterne

### USD 37,160 (2 years)

To provide support to Blæksprutterne, an organisation formed to support people who have lost faith in themselves, to regain their confidence by matching the competences of one person with the needs of another.

### Brugernes Akademi

### USD 38,585 (1 year)

To provide healthcare services to marginalised people who are experiencing homelessness via the mobile unit, 'Health on wheels'.

#### Det Grønlandske Hus i Odense

### USD 48,332 (1 year)

To arrange a Danish-Greenlandic social and political summit in Denmark.

### Det Nationale Sorgcenter USD 627,010 (3 years)

To develop a hotline in Greenland that aims to help young people and adults process their grief.

### Digitalt Ansvar USD 665,539 (2 years)

To set up an umbrella organisation specialising in digital violence to ensure better regulation and safety for victims of digital violence.

### Frelsens Hær

### USD 48,047 (1 year)

To replace the kitchen in the shelter Frelsens Hær, so that the organisation can run its project 'Open House', which allows people experiencing homelessness, as well as single and elderly people in the local area, to meet together over a meal.

#### **Gallo Huset**

#### USD 29,743 (1 year)

To provide people who are experiencing various challenges or have disabilities with work experience at a mobile café (coffee truck).



### Hjælp til Hjemløse

#### USD 80,203 (2 years)

To help people experiencing homelessness in Aarhus by providing them with clothing, food, and practical help, such as teaching them how to cook.

#### **Impact Insider**

### USD 64,309 (1 year)

To create a media platform named 'Impact Arena', which aims to contribute positively to resolving social problems in society.

### Impact TV

#### USD 59,486 (1 year)

To produce a documentary series for primetime television on the biggest Danish TV channel, which attempts to expose a problem that is preventing people from receiving the treatment they need.

### Joannahuset

### USD 318,039 (2 years)

To provide support to Joannahuset, a newly opened crisis centre for children and adolescents.

### Junk Food

### USD 461,648 (3 years)

To offer a daily, free-of-charge hot meal to people living on the streets and in shelters.

#### KFUK's Sociale Arbejde, Reden Aalborg

### USD 174,834 (2 years)

To provide counselling therapy, legal support, and healthcare services to sex-workers, women survivors of abuse, and women experiencing homelessness.

### LOKK

### USD 1,114,755 (3 years)

To provide support to LOKK, the Danish national organisation of women's shelters.

### Mandecentret

### USD 295,820 (1 year)

To expand the shelter for men who have experienced violence in Copenhagen, and establish a new shelter in the region of Sealand.

### NEFOS

### USD 858,521 (3 years)

To build the capacity of NEFOS, the Danish national organisation supporting bereaved people following a committed or attempted suicide of a friend or family member.

#### Nutaaliorta

### USD 135,490 (1 year)

To increase and improve distance learning in Greenland, which lacks teachers in general and specialised teachers in particular.

#### Spodcast.dk

### USD 118,569 (1 year)

To create a podcast App to provide support and advice to women who have been raped or who have experienced attempted rape.

### Stenbroens Jurister

### USD 160,772 (1 year)

To provide support to Stenbroens Jurister, an organisation providing legal aid to the most exposed and vulnerable people in Denmark.

### UNLEASH

### USD 160,772 (1 year)

To finance the next UNLEASH innovation camp in Greenland, which aims to produce innovative and demand-driven solutions to help: build the capacity of young people; secure a global network; and engage partners in building strong leaders and sustainable work that will benefit Greenland.

### VeteranHaven

#### USD 74,785 (1 year)

To develop a sustainable garden project for veterans from the Danish Defence, the police, the Danish Emergency Management Agency, and their relatives to enjoy.

**Caption:** The photos in this section of the Denmark section of the report are of Joanna House in Denmark, which works to help young people at crisis points in their lives.



## | India

### Supporting equitable opportunities for all

Everyone should have a fair chance at creating a life for themselves in which they can move beyond mere survival to achieve their full potential. Many, however, lack those opportunities simply because of where they are born or who they are.

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

We believe that bringing diverse voices in communities together can help people work out solutions for their problems. We know that when communities determine choices through an inclusive process, they have greater collective ownership of the solutions that address structural change in their own communities. Ultimately, the outcomes of such processes last longer and the impact is more equitable.

To this end, the India Programme's grant-making deliberately supports efforts that puts community voices at the centre, leading to community-driven actions fostered by local leaders.

## **Amplifying the voices** of communities in India

In two small villages in Jharkhand, Kumkuma and Taro, some villagers recognised the challenges faced by children who dropped out of school. This was especially the case during the Covid-19 crisis. They wanted to do something about it. They raised the issue at the Gram Sabha (or village assembly), and together they came up with a solution. They would conduct community classes for children to replace school lessons. The Gram Sabha set up a fund to support the initiative.

Child In Need Institute (CINI), a not-for-profit organisation working to achieve sustainable development among communities in the region, helped train the community educators. Overall, the initiative was a success – some 108 children began re-attending classes, and when the schools re-opened, the trainers adapted to offer additional classes after school instead.

"An initiative such as this one has far-reaching consequences as it helps put a stop to child labour," says Paromita Chowdhury, programme officer for the India Programme. "This work shows the power of community-led action on behalf of children, and it reminds us that some of the best supports for children come from grassroots action led by ordinary, yet amazing people."

In the Dhanbad district, also in Jharkhand, community members wanted to find ways to address child marriage, so they came together to discuss possible solutions. Not-for-profit organisation Chetna Vikas got involved and helped mobilise both parents and adolescents to raise community awareness and support for reducing child marriage. They led a painting exhibition, conducted street plays, and organised debates. As a result, the number of child marriages decreased, and more girls stayed in school. "Chetna Vikas promoted change from within by enabling community-driven solutions," says Paromita. "I believe it is time to recognise the role of natural leaders and community action in supporting children's protection and wellbeing."

The coastal district of South 24 Parganas in district of West Bengal is regularly affected by extreme climate events like super-cyclones and tidal surges. Not-for-profit organisation Praxis led a group of eight organisations through an inclusive process where the community identified loss of livelihoods, domestic violence, early marriage, water crises, and severe natural disasters as some of the problems that needed the most attention. Together they developed action plans to address these issues, which has strengthened community leadership and skills towards taking coherent, durable actions.

These are some examples that demonstrate how bringing diverse voices of communities together can help the people to work out solutions for their problems. We believe that when communities determine choices through an inclusive process, they have greater collective ownership of the solutions aiming to address structural change in their own communities. You can read more about the India Programme on our website: <a href="www.oakfnd.org/programmes/india/">www.oakfnd.org/programmes/india/</a>



### American Friends of Edelgive Foundation USD 350,000 (2 years)

To provide core support to the Grassroots Resilience Ownership Wellness Fund (GROW), a pilot project that aims to stabilise funding for small and medium Indian not-for-profit organisations.

### Baikunthapur Tarun Sangha USD 75,761 (2 years)

To support communities in South 24 Parganas, West Bengal.

### British Asian Trust USD 313,972 (3 years)

To provide support to the Jharkhand Anti-Trafficking Network (JATN) to help it become an effective and recognised resource agency by preventing the trafficking of women and children and promoting safe migration of adult women in 13 districts of Jharkhand.

### CRY AMERICA

### USD 3,344,446 (3.5 years)

To provide grant management and value-added services to the grantee partner exit portfolio of the former Joint India Programme through the re-granting organisation Child Rights and You – America (CRY AM).

#### Development Research Communication and Services Centre

### USD 61,263 (2 years)

To support communities in South 24 Parganas, West Bengal to access different government schemes and services so that they can take informed decisions with regard to diversifying their income opportunities.

### Dignity Alliance International USD 1,216,608 (3 years)

To help strengthen the Migrant Resilient Collaborative (MRC) in India, which aims to protect migrant workers by regulating placements and work conditions and providing them with full access to safety nets and entitlements.

### Family Planning Association of India USD 526,811 (4 years)

To support the Family Planning Association of India's expansion into socially and geographically excluded communities in North and South West Bengal.

### Indraprastha Srijan Welfare Society

#### USD 64,576 (2 years)

To support communities in South 24 Parganas, West Bengal by working with marginalised members of society to help empower them.

#### IPAS

### USD 499,771 (3 years)

To improve the health outcomes for young women and adolescents in the districts of Jharkhand and West Bengal.

#### MUKTI

### USD 57,978 (2 years)

To support communities in South 24 Parganas, West Bengal to engage volunteers to create a grassroots level socio-economic development organisation that contributes in sustainable development of people in need.

### National Centre for Advocacy Studies Pune

### USD 60,352 (2 years)

To enable communities in the Patharpratima block of the Sundarbans in West Bengal to come together and produce a plan of action to help them become more resilient to climate change.

#### Nazdeek, Inc

#### USD 449,375 (3 years)

To support Nazdeek in its efforts to improve access to justice for tea plantation worker communities in Assam and West Bengal.

### New Alipore Praajak Development Society USD 39,905 (2 years)

To support organisations in South 24 Parganas, West Bengal to apply a highly participatory and inclusive process to enable vulnerable communities to leverage communal and external resources.

### Rupantaran Foundation USD 40,604 (2 years)

To ensure that community members in South 24 Parganas, West Bengal are better heard and consulted on a wide range of practical and strategic issues that affect them.

### Rural Development Institute USD 715,811 (4 years)

To support Rural Development Institute to facilitate conditions in Jharkhand, India for women to earn and experience equal land rights.

#### Sanhita

#### USD 159,379 (3 years)

To help ensure safe workplaces that are free of sexual harassment for women workers from the unorganised sector in West Bengal and the tea gardens of North Bengal.

#### **Swaniti Initiative**

#### USD 331,200 (2 years)

To provide technical assistance to state and local governments in West Bengal to enable tea worker communities to access fair wages, plantation-specific entitlements, and benefits.

### Traidcraft Exchange UK USD 1,331,460 (3 years)

To strengthen 9,000 tea worker communities from five districts of Assam and West Bengal.

Caption: The photos in the India Programme's section of the report illustrate our partners' efforts to strengthen people to find their own solutions for problems within their communities.





## **Zimbabwe**

### Contributing to healthy and vibrant communities

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

We support organisations operating in the following priority areas: healthcare, including HIV/AIDS; rural water supplies; special needs education; and services that help vulnerable women, children, and elderly persons. The country of Zimbabwe is important to Oak Foundation. Our Zimbabwe Porgramme provides grants to local

organisations, and our Trustees provide additional support for the people of Zimbabwe through the Special Interest Programme, such as the work profiled in the articles on the next two pages.

In 2021, we welcomed Ben Gilpin as the new head of programme. Ben will be reviewing the existing programme of work and will be consulting with the Trustees and President of Oak Foundation to develop possible areas in which the programme can grow and have impact in the coming years.

## Teaching coding in Zimbabwe

When Uncommon first launched in Zimbabwe at the end of 2017, its goal was to teach youth and young adults how to code. The founders Peter, Clive, and Norest, from the US and Zimbabwe, could see how there was a huge thirst for technology education in the country, as well as a lack of opportunity for youth and young adults to learn these skills.

Uncommon's initial model was simple – to train unemployed young adults to be after-school coding instructors. This worked so well that Uncommon decided to focus even more on training young adults for the tech workforce to make a bigger impact. To address the infrastructure challenges they had been facing, the Uncommon team upcycled shipping containers to be used as offices and training centres, and installed solar power. They built the first innovation hub in 2019.

There are now six innovation hubs in Zimbabwe, with 35 employees in total. A team of four or five instructors runs each innovation hub. They are responsible for training young adults on a one-year programme called 'bootcamp for the technology workforce'. The young adults receive their training for free, and they are then responsible for teaching free computer coding classes at Uncommon's partner schools in the neighbourhood. Through this model, Uncommon trains young adults for tech employment, while simultaneously teaching computer coding to thousands of school children.

Tanyaradzwa Nyamusara was one of the young women who benefitted from the training. Coming from a small town in Zimbabwe, she first learned about Uncommon when she was 16. "Though I knew nothing about technology, I was curious and decided to join," she says. "Before long, I fell in love. I got so good that I was even invited to New York City for an assignment with 'Girls who Code'." However, a few months before travelling, just before turning 17, Tanyaradzwa found out that she was pregnant. "Many people thought that this was where my story would end," she says. "But really, it was just the beginning."

Today, Tanyaradzwa is a front-end developer at Uncommon, overseeing the coding education in six of the innovation hubs. She also helps train the young adults who teach thousands of school children. She has her whole life ahead of her and she is excited about what the future holds. "I am a high school drop-out and a teen mom," she says. "I am also a developer and a believer in humanity and all that we can do. I am uncommon."

Uncommon has permission from Zimbabwe's Ministry of Education to teach in the country's state schools. "In the low-income communities we focus our work in, the unemployment rate is extraordinarily high, and schools lack adequate resources to provide a robust digital education," says Peter. "Uncommon's goal is to nurture a generation of talent that will grow existing companies and create new employment opportunities." And, indeed, already the average annual income of graduates has increased four to five times following their studies with Uncommon.

Uncommon also has a mentorship programme whereby professionals from all over the world give virtual one-on-one lessons to the adult students at the innovation hubs. These mentors come from companies including Google, Amazon, Facebook, AutoDesk, Pinterest, and YouTube. We at Oak are excited about this great programme and for what the future holds. This grant is supported through our Special Interest Programme, which reflects the Trustees' interests in making innovative grants. You can find out more about Uncommon at uncommon.org, and check out our online version of the report to see a video of Tanyaradzwa.<sup>1</sup>



## Reducing hunger through school meals

Mary's Meals works in 20 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe, and the Caribbean. The charity provides life-changing meals to children every day they attend school. It is a simple idea that works. The promise of a daily meal attracts hungry children into the classroom, where they receive a basic education that can provide an escape route from poverty. One of the countries it works in is Zimbabwe. Oak's first grant to Mary's Meals in Zimbabwe, made in 2018, supported a school-feeding programme in Matabeleland North, a province in the west of the country. These efforts helped reduce hunger, and promoted access to and participation in school.

The aim of the project was to help increase community support for education, and provide families with a social safety net in times of food insecurity. By September 2019, which marked the end of the first year of the project, 18,302 children in 40 schools in Matabeleland North were receiving school meals.

During the Covid-19 crisis, hunger and need had reached acute levels in many countries. This includes Zimbabwe, where the loss of daily meals when schools closed was a problem for many children and their communities. The city of Harare, Zimbabwe, was one of the areas worst affected by Covid-19 in the country, with 40 per cent of all recorded cases. The restrictions put in place by the Government to mitigate the spread of the virus prevented many Zimbabweans living in urban areas from earning a living. Surveys conducted in 2020 indicate that nearly 500,000 Zimbabwean households have at least one member who lost her or his job, causing many households to fall into poverty. This lack of income has led to Harare experiencing increased levels of food insecurity.

Mary's Meals sprung into action during the lockdown. Staff tried to find ways to reach children at their homes, working with governments, community leaders and other not-for-profit organisations. One of the organisations that Mary's Meals worked with in Harare was Mavambo Orphan Care (MOC). Through MOC's network of community health workers, it worked to reach as many children as possible with nutritious meals, despite the restrictions.

**Caption:** The photographs in the Zimbabwe section of the report illustrate the work of our partners in Zimbabwe and their efforts to care and provide for the most vulnerable people in Zimbabwean society.

"Coronavirus has affected us in terms of food security, as we are not able to access three decent meals as before," says vendor Mercy Mutuwa from Harare, who received meals from MOC. "I'm a full-time vendor and our chances to trade have been reduced. I was relieved to know that MOC will be supporting us with food. These meals will go a long way."

"We are very glad to be working with Mary's Meals to bring urgent support to families during this time of crisis," says Danny Gomwe from MOC. "The food is making a world of difference to vulnerable children, especially those living with HIV who need good nutrition to ensure their antiretroviral medication is effective. The need for food in these communities far outweighs available food, so the support we are working together to provide is life-saving."

Since schools reopened, Mary's Meals has been able to serve daily meals at school to thousands of children once again, giving them the energy to learn and thrive. As of 2021, Mary's Meals is now reaching 74,336 children across Zimbabwe. If you want to find out more about Mary's Meals, please visit marysmeals.org.uk, or watch the video in the online version of this report.





### **HIV/AIDS**

### The Bethany Project USD 77,945 (1 year)

To mobilise communities to participate in promoting the wellbeing of children affected by HIV/AIDS or living with disabilities.

### Family Action for Community Empowerment in Zimbabwe USD 55,243 (1 year)

To improve the quality of lives of people in Makoni district of Manicaland Province and Marondera Mutoko and Mudzi Districts of Mashonaland East Province in Zimbabwe.

### Island Hospice and Bereavement Services USD 90,000 (1 year)

To provide quality palliative care in Bulawayo, Chitungwiza, Marondera and Mutare.

### Mashambanzou Care Trust USD 74,659 (1 year)

To provide quality care for people living with HIV and to empower local communities to deal effectively with the disease in the suburbs and peri-urban informal settlements around Harare.

### Midlands AIDS Service Organization

### USD 40,001 (1 year)

To promote the welfare and safety of all children through a supportive, stimulating, and inclusive environment.

### The National St Johns Council for the Republic of Zimbabwe USD 73,886 (1 year)

To provide training to the public in first aid, home-based care, and sexual reproductive health.

### Special needs education

### Dance Trust of Zimbabwe USD 39,517 (1 year)

To promote and encourage dance in all forms and to continue providing dance lessons free of charge in Zimbabwe to children with disabilities.

### Isheanesu Multi-purpose Centre for Disabled Children USD 20,100 (1 year)

To promote and sustain the support given to children with very serious disabilities in Glenview and adjacent townships of Harare.

### J.F. Kapnek Trust USD 50,026 (1 year)

To improve the education, health, and nutritional status of 4,173 pre-schoolers in Mhondoro Ngezi district, Zimbabwe.

### NZEVE Deaf Children's Centre USD 69,363 (1 year)

To provide holistic services for the deaf children, youth, and their families to realise their dreams and fully integrate with others in the society.

### Sir Humphrey Gibbs Training Center

### USD 16,959 (1 year)

To assist the centre to care for vulnerable adults by providing education, training, and shelter.

### Zimcare Trust USD 348,553 (1 year)

To facilitate an environment in which all learning and care programmes support individual needs, so that each person can excel within their abilities.

Note on grants: The grants associated with the stories in this report (Uncommon and Mary's Meals) were managed by our Special Interest Programme. You can find these grants on our grant database at www.oakfnd.org.

### Other

### Harare Children's Hospital Trust USD 8,340 (1 year)

To provide care for young children and adolescents with diabetes mellitus at the Paediatric Diabetes Clinic at Sally Mugabe Children's Hospital in Zimbabwe.

### Kidzcan

#### USD 30,000 (1 year)

To increase the survival rate of children without access to medical aid who have cancer and related blood disorders.

### Rotary Club Harare Dawn USD 9,067 (1 year)

To distribute medical equipment to Zimbabwean hospitals.

### Simukai Child Protection Program USD 48,750 (1 year)

To protect and promote the rights of both children and youth, so they realise their full potential, with a particular focus on street kids and preventing child marriage.

**References:** Please see page 66 of this report.

### References

### **Environment**

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- 2. National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (2019). Washington, D.C: National Center for Education Statistics (accessed 09-02-22)

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### **Special Interest**

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- 1. Moorfields patient receives world's first 3D printed eye, Moorfields Eye Hospital, NHS Foundation Trust, 25 November 2021, <a href="www.moorfields.nhs.uk/news/moorfields-patient-receives-world-s-first-3d-printed-eye">world-s-first-3d-printed-eye</a> (accessed 09-02-22)
- 2. You can watch the video about Oak's first grant to Moorfield's Eye Charity to support the Eye Hospital and UCL here: <a href="www.youtu.be/xXQ7q8TUH84">www.youtu.be/xXQ7q8TUH84</a>

Transforming Lives on Hawaii Island: 2.1Meet Alice, www.2-22)

- 2.2 Research Center Hawaii, www.unitedforalice.org/stateoverview/Hawaii (accessed 09-02-22)
- 3. Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, Research and Economic Analysis, <a href="https://www.dbedt.hawaii.gov/economic/www.unemploymentrate-laborforce/">www.unemploymentrate-laborforce/(accessed 09-02-22)</a>

Defending the rights of immigrant children in US federal detention centres:

4. U.S Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection. Southwest Land Border Encounters (By Component) www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-www.land-border-encounters-by-component (Accessed 20-12-2021)

Singing is the best medicine: You can watch a Singing Medicine Intensive Care Conference Presentation here: YouTube: www.youtu.be/z0kC6rFwLkA

### **Zimbabwe**

1. Teaching coding in Zimbabwe: You can watch Tanya's Uncommon story here: <a href="https://www.vimeo.82485160">www.vimeo.82485160</a> 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 <a href="mailto:commdept@oakfnd.org">commdept@oakfnd.org</a> if you would like to provide feedback.

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