

OAK FOUNDATION



Annual Report 2015

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Our history



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Since its establishment, Oak Foundation has made more than **3,600** grants to not-for-profit organisations across the globe.

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

Oak Foundation was formally established in 1983. Early grants were made in Denmark to organisations supporting single mothers and torture victims (1983) and in Zimbabwe to groups supporting vulnerable children and families, primarily at community levels (1984). Grants continued to be made annually in several countries until a new phase for Oak Foundation began in the early 1990s, when annual grant-making increased and staff were hired to run substantive programmes.

The first two programmes to get underway were Environment and Child Abuse, followed by four other programmes – Housing and Homelessness, International Human Rights, Issues Affecting Women and Learning Differences. There is also a Special Interest Programme, which funds efforts identified by the Trustees that do not fall into the other programme areas, and two national programmes in Denmark and Zimbabwe. Five of Oak's programmes also fund initiatives in India, and in 2012, Oak Foundation joined this work under the banner of the Joint India Programme.

Since its establishment, Oak Foundation has made more than 3,600 grants to not-for-profit organisations across the globe. Oak Foundation has its main administrative office in Geneva, Switzerland and a presence in eight other countries: Belize, Bulgaria, Denmark, India, Tanzania, the United Kingdom, the United States and Zimbabwe.

Letter from the Trustees

2015 was, in the words of Charles Dickens, “the best of times and the worst of times”. Our partners were affected by both the highs and the lows of this historic and tumultuous year. On the one hand, conflict, mass migration and terrorist attacks resulted in widespread fear, large scale suffering and gross violations of human rights. In contrast, a new set of sustainable development goals was adopted by the United Nations in September and the global climate change agreement reached in Paris is stronger than most of us dreamed possible. These events – both good and bad – have touched the heart of our work, stretched the stamina and resources of our partners to breaking point and reinforced our core priorities.

In 2015 Oak Foundation made 326 grants to 308 organisations in 39 countries. In addition, we responded to these world events through the following extraordinary grants.

- Two one-year grants of USD 2.5 million each were made to Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) and Save the Children (STC), to relieve the suffering of women and children who are living in camps and temporary settlements in the countries surrounding Syria. MSF focuses on gaining access for families to basic health care and nutrition while STC is establishing schools and community centres that give children safe places to learn and play.
- To complement our substantial investment in climate mitigation, we made five grants (totalling USD 5 million) to organisations to mobilise community and political support in the run-up to the Conference of the Parties (COP21) in Paris, in December 2015. Details on these grants are provided in the Special Initiative section of this report on page 79. In 2016 Oak Foundation plans to build on this initial investment by establishing a new fund focused on strengthening the adaptive

capacity and resilience of communities most impacted by climate change – in particular youth, indigenous peoples and women. Initially, community groups in three geographies – the Arctic, the Bay of Bengal and East Africa – will be helped to respond to the impacts of climate change on their land, homes and livelihoods. In taking this step, we hope to leverage the support of other funders to address the human dimensions of climate change.

This report highlights the work of our partners across a number of fields. Areas given special attention include:

- Responding to children on the move, who leave their homes and families for many reasons. Some are fleeing conflict, poverty, political oppression or lack of opportunity. Others are seeking jobs and education to support their families or secure a better future. Whatever their motivation, all these children run huge risks of violence, abuse and exploitation. They are also entitled to protection and other rights, which our partners are determined to provide.
- Creating sustainable cities, which are challenged by the sheer numbers of people seeking housing, transport, employment and services. Oak partners are taking on these challenges – improving mobility in Brazil, re-organising bus systems in China and strengthening transport infrastructure in India, among other innovations.
- Linking health and homeless services by increasing awareness, addressing barriers and using the healthcare system as a way to reach the most vulnerable. Oak is helping groups demonstrate how staff within the health system can identify people who are struggling to keep their homes or whose health is strained by poverty and isolation.

- Supporting technological advances that promote human rights by enhancing digital security, developing tools to end impunity and extending the reach of human rights defenders. Oak is investing in a range of interventions to build grantees’ technological capacities. This is particularly important in the face of increasing constraints on the activities and funding sources of civil society groups around the world.
- Building movements to end violence against women by addressing root causes, revealing links to trafficking and other forms of exploitation and improving both laws and services. Moldova provides a good example of how a comprehensive, rights-based, women-centred approach can begin to transform social norms around violence.
- Engaging young people with learning differences to appreciate their strengths, provide feedback on programmes designed to help them and advocate for the help they need to succeed. Oak supports organisations that help young people to build their skills and confidence as learners, mentors and citizens.

In these areas, as well as those covered by the Special Interest Programme and our grants in Denmark and Zimbabwe, much remains to be done. But we are encouraged by achievements this year, impressed by our partners’ determination and proud to have the possibility to support their work.

The Trustees of Oak Foundation:

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

Our grant-making in 2015

All amounts provided represent US dollars in millions.

We made

326

programme grants to

308

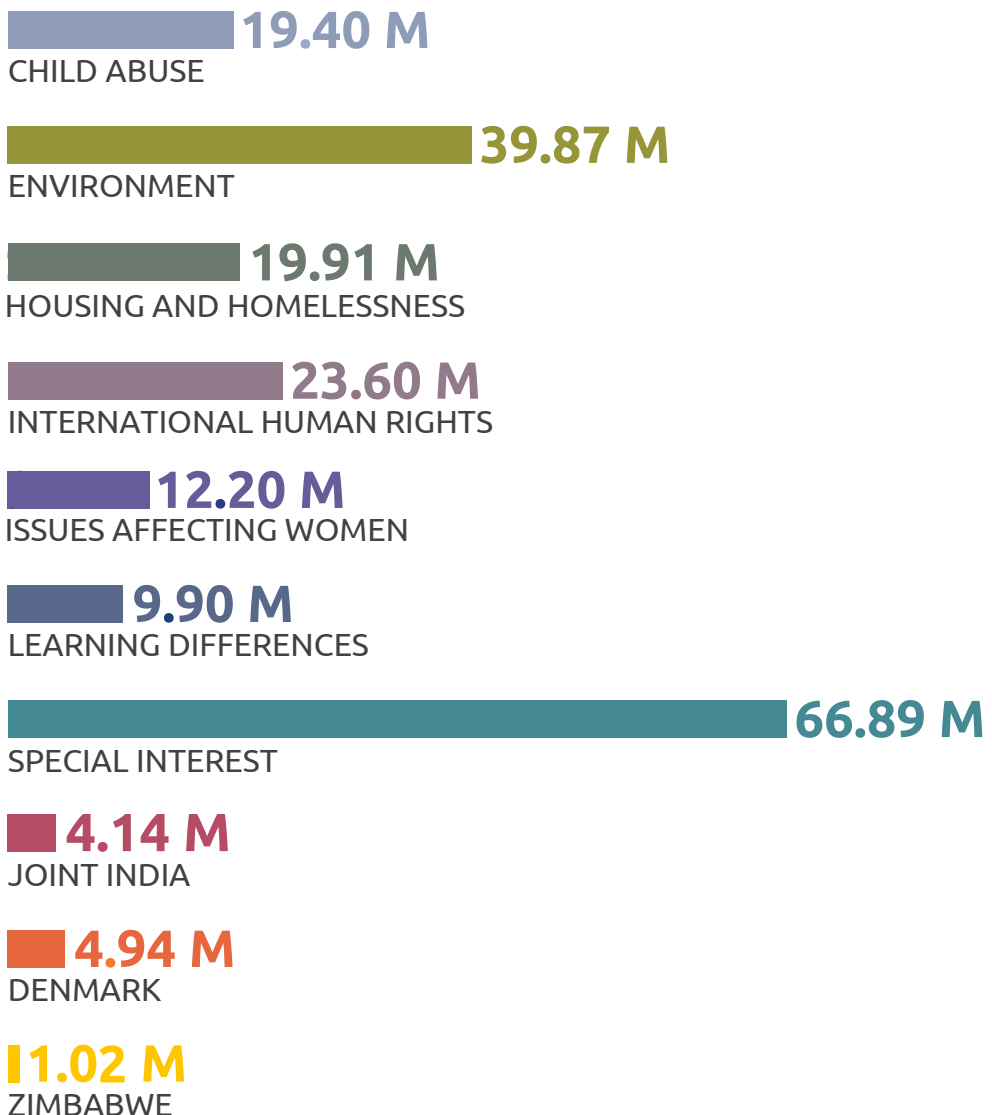
organisations in

39

countries.

During the 2015 calendar year, Oak Foundation made 326 programme grants for a total of USD 201.87 million. These grants supported 308 organisations based in 39 countries. The work of these organisations is carried out throughout the world. The size of grants varied from approximately USD 25,000 to almost USD 21 million, with an average of USD 617,000. In addition, Special Initiative grants were made to five organisations for a total of USD 5 million.

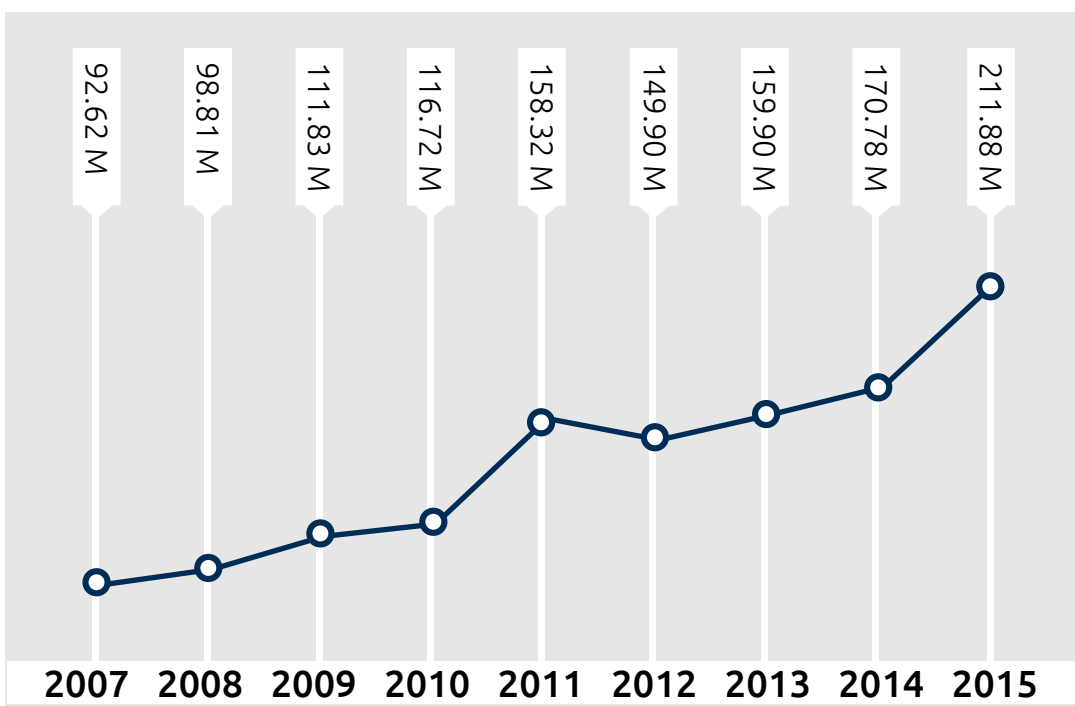
Total programme and discretionary grant-making in 2015



201.87 M	Total programme grants
10.75 M	Discretionary grants
(0.74 M)	Refunds and cancellations
211.88 M	TOTAL REGULAR GRANT-MAKING
5.00 M	Special Initiative*
216.88 M	NET AMOUNT GRANTED

In 2015 Oak's grant-making increased by about USD 41 million. This reflects the wishes of the Trustees to contribute further to improving the lives of the disadvantaged, and to advancing social and environmental causes globally.

Total regular grant-making 2007-2015



* The chart on page 5 excludes the Special Initiative grants.



A searchable grant database containing grants approved in previous years, grant-making criteria and application information are available on Oak Foundation's website (www.oakfnd.org/grants).

Capacity building



Oak Foundation supports initiatives that build the capacity of our partners to carry out their work. Each year we highlight a different aspect of this work in the Annual Report. This year we have focused on how we work with intermediaries.

Building capacity through intermediaries: working with small groups to create bigger change

Polina Tudu from Godda, a remote district of Jharkhand, India, is a mother of three. Her family depends on agriculture for its livelihood. Polina leads a self-help group in her village, through which she shares information about social protection programmes with the group members. So far, she has enabled 28 men and women from her village to get a pension. Polina's self-help group was formed with the help of **Find Your Feet**, a not-for-profit organisation which raises awareness of opportunities among rural communities and encourages people to ask for their entitlements and services. So far Find Your Feet has helped create almost 200 self-help groups (including Polina's) in four districts of Jharkhand.

Community-based movements such as these are best positioned to create meaningful and direct change on the ground. However, they often lack resources to make a sustainable impact or to reach the international arena and access more funds. On the other hand, international foundations lack the capacity to reach the smallest grassroots movements, who need support the most. We overcome this challenge in part by supporting intermediaries, which are third-party organisations that can reach small advocacy groups and grassroots movements better than we can.

“Intermediary partners can bring much needed knowledge to the table and allow Oak staff access to expertise in new fields, geographies and communities.”
– Adriana Craciun, Oak's Senior Adviser on Organisational Development and Capacity Building

Intermediaries form deep connections within their communities and bring an expertise that large foundations are not always equipped to deliver. Organisations like Find Your Feet fully understand the culture they operate in. They have the best knowledge of the issues affecting the specific context of their work, and of how to raise awareness around them. In addition, intermediaries facilitate administering smaller grants, monitor their impact and provide technical assistance to their grantees. They also provide counselling, training, networking

opportunities and financial support to grassroots organisations who work closest to the ground.

Preventing homelessness in the UK and institutionalisation of children in Eastern Europe

The UK-based **Sheila McKechnie Foundation (SMK)** supports individuals, organisations and communities working for social change by helping them improve their campaigning and communications skills. Using funding from our Housing and Homelessness Programme, SMK has helped enhance the role played by 31 non-governmental organisations working to prevent homelessness. SMK's assistance provides a new way of thinking, a space for planning and concrete support to plan and implement advocacy.

Crisis, a UK homeless charity, benefitted from SMK's support to refine its external message and produce a campaigning strategy. In addition to all the services it provides for homeless people, Crisis is now leading a "No One Turned Away" campaign. This seeks to reform the law so that no one who asks their local council for help with housing gets turned away to sleep on the streets.

SMK draws upon a wide network of influential actors in advocacy and supports organisations working towards different campaigning goals. It has also partnered with our Child Abuse Programme, notably through grants which support child rights advocacy groups working to phase out institutional childcare in Eastern Europe. Institutional care is a generally accepted form of alternative care for families and minority groups in the region who are disadvantaged due to poverty or discrimination. However, studies have shown that institutional care causes lasting harm to many children. SMK works with partners to enhance cooperation among civil society, the corporate sector and national and local authorities to help keep children with their families. Where this is not possible, partners support advocacy groups to find family-based alternative care for children.

Combating violence against women in the Balkans

Trag Foundation is a local Serbian organisation that enhances local civil society through funding and capacity building. Oak partners with Trag to strengthen the sustainability of women's organisations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia. These organisations provide services to victims of domestic violence, trafficking and exploitation and work to stop the violation of women's rights. Trag provides grants, builds capacity and facilitates networking among women's organisations. At the same time, Oak strengthens Trag by helping it to include a women's rights perspective across all of its work, and eventually across the work of all of its grantee partners. Oak sees this approach as a strategic investment in the capacity and sustainability of women's rights organisations and as a way of supporting civil society in the region.

Trag helps partners develop personalised capacity-building plans which build on strengths and enhance capacity. Simultaneously this is a chance for Trag to build its own capacity-building expertise. To this end, Oak connected Trag with **NESsT**, a US-based, not-for-profit organisation that develops sustainable enterprises that solve critical social problems. By building its own knowledge of financial sustainability, Trag is better equipped to support smaller organisations.

Together, NESsT and Trag are working with **ATINA**, a Serbian women's rights organisation, to expand its sources of sustainable funding. ATINA works with women survivors of trafficking and violence. It advocates for gender equality and identifies and combats gender-based violence and discrimination. It provides safe accommodation, health and psychological care, legal counselling, informal education and economic empowerment to survivors of trafficking and sexual exploitation. Recently, ATINA established what it anticipates will be a viable business – the first bagel shop in Serbia. Bagel Бeјгл (or Bagel Bagel) gives survivors of human trafficking a safe place to work and an independent income.

Crisis

is leading a "No One Turned Away" campaign to reform the law so that no one who asks their local council for help with housing gets turned away to sleep on the streets.



To find out more about the Organisational Development and Capacity Building Initiative at Oak visit www.oakfnd.org/odcb

100%

of parents of children attending the Las Hormigas Educational Programme thought their children had shown improvement in behaviour.

“Belgrade now has its Bagel Bagel shop - an oasis of great taste where you can treat yourself to mouthwatering food and also contribute to the struggle for a better world.

- Marijana Savic,
Director, ATINA

The profits from the shop and Bagel Bejra's small catering business also provide sustainable funding to ATINA. With the help of NESsT and Trag, ATINA hopes to expand the Bagel Bejra business. This illustrates how ongoing support such as that offered by Trag allows organisations like ATINA to become stronger and move towards financial sustainability.

Building financially-viable local organisations

Oak also connected Trag with **Resource Alliance**, which works to harness financial, human and intellectual resources to help individuals and organisations build a better world. Resource Alliance is working with Trag and other advocacy organisations across the globe to help them be more effective. This is done by bringing them together through conferences, workshops and programmes that enable the sharing of ideas.

The Resource Alliance's Emerge Programme assists small grassroots organisations to fundraise and use resources efficiently. Four of Oak's partners benefitted from this programme in 2015, and two more enhanced their leadership capacity by attending the Future Leaders Programme in 2014. "For any organisation to be successful, sustainable and capable of reacting to both challenges and opportunities, leadership capacity is essential," said Adriana Craciun. Through our Special Interest Programme grants, 15 organisations will benefit from the Emerge Programme and 30 managers will benefit from the Future Leaders Programme in the next three years.

Working with families to stop violence in Mexico

Investigación en Salud y Demografía, S.C. (Insad), a health and demographics research consulting firm, helps our Issues Affecting Women Programme partners in Mexico measure the impact of their work. Insad looks at what the organisations have achieved, assessing their strategies, gathering qualitative and quantitative evidence and making recommendations to track and expand the impact of their work. Beyond its grant-making role, Oak is committed to supporting its partners to build evidence on the effectiveness and impact of their work, in particular advocacy organisations, helping them to access other sources of funding.

The first partner Oak connected Insad to was **Las Hormigas**. Las Hormigas means "the ants" in Spanish, and it is a community organisation in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico that works with families to prevent violence and destructive behaviour. Its community centre provides a safe space for people to see mental health specialists who provide therapy for individuals and families. Violence plagues the communities of Anapra and Lomas de Poleo, where 50 per cent of the population live below the poverty line and are socially, as well as economically, marginalised. There is a lack of basic public services and transport, as well as constant migration to and from these border communities. Long working hours of parents put a stress on families, particularly on single mothers.

Insad helped Las Hormigas analyse the impact it had on these communities through 24 in-depth interviews. The interviews revealed that almost everyone who had been assisted by Las Hormigas had been able to change some aspect of their behaviour that was harmful, by dealing with anger and aggression or improving self esteem and communication skills. Las Hormigas also works with children with learning difficulties or who demonstrate aggressive behaviour at school. 100 per cent of the parents interviewed said that their children had shown improvement from the programme.¹ "The great majority of those interviewed reported that they wouldn't have been able to achieve personal change without



the support of Las Hormigas,” said Cecilia Vega, the principle researcher on Las Hormigas from Insad.

Insad also provided support to Las Hormigas staff to help them develop their skills, implement monitoring methods and expand. Because Insad was so successful with Las Hormigas, Oak now partners with Insad to assess the capacities and strategies of all our partners in Mexico and help them improve their impact.

Helping the people of Myanmar

Our International Human Rights Programme works with the intermediary **Partners Asia**, which supports civil society organisations and grassroots networks in Myanmar to advance the rule of law. Partners Asia connects community initiatives with global resources. It also works to train and build the capacity of lawyers, activists and journalists.

“Across the world there is a lack of capacity in fundraising and resource mobilisation,” said Adriana. “This limits the scope and reach of civil society and its ability to effect change. Intermediaries help us reach those who need it most.” With resources to campaign effectively, become financially sustainable and network with other movements, small grassroots networks

and civil society advocacy groups can achieve more. Intermediaries such as those mentioned above and others will continue to reach small, community-based movements, connecting them with the resources and training they need to create bigger social change.

Trag

Foundation is a local Serbian organisation that works to strengthen the sustainability of women's organisations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia.



Biljana Dakic Djordjevic,
Executive Director of Trag Foundation.

Child Abuse



Violence, abuse and exploitation of children are unfortunately not new. Forms of physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children have come to be recognised as crimes against children. The devastating consequences that violence has on children's development and on societies as a whole are slowly coming to light.

In the Child Abuse Programme, we envision a world in which all children are protected from sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. We support initiatives that: eliminate the sexual exploitation of children; engage men and boys in combating the sexual abuse of children; and promote the prevention of violence against children.



© Jonathan Hymas/Save the Children



© Jonathan Hymas/Save the Children

Reflections

During the course of the year, the Child Abuse Programme (CAP) made more than 45 grants, hired a new Programme Officer in East Africa and organised a meeting of partners to assess violence prevention and sexual abuse prevention initiatives in Eastern Europe. We remained close to our partners' concerns and successes. We know that to achieve change in any area, cooperation is essential – whether this is within countries or between major actors that develop global policy.

2015 has been an important year for major events concerning children. These include:

- The UN adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015. We supported work behind the scenes to ensure that the fight against abuse, violence and exploitation remained firmly embedded in the final documents.
- The planning of a Global Partnership to End Violence against Children. This will bring major UN agencies, civil society organisations and governments together around a set of evidence-based programmes to reduce violence.
- International efforts to advocate with FIFA, other sporting institutions and the World Bank. This will help ensure that children's rights are an integral part of these organisations' human rights standards in working with countries around the world.

CAP has funded innovative primary prevention work to:

- engage men in children's lives and support new fathers in care-giving roles;

- research and challenge gender and social norms that perpetuate violence and exploitation of children and adolescents;
- search for a valid frame for prevention of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents which embraces both the public health and child protection perspectives; and
- engage key actors in a new pact to deliver violence prevention, including in health and education.

A new fund in Africa has been created through our partnership with other private donors, the **East Africa Children's Fund**. It will bring funding to community-based groups and non-governmental organisations that are normally too small to receive funding from major philanthropic organisations. We are confident that in targeting the many groups that do essential work to eradicate violence, sexual abuse and exploitation at community levels, we will support the mobilisation of an ever-growing number of children, youth and communities to demand change for children.

Given that our current strategy is an ambitious one with long-ranging goals, we have decided to extend it beyond 2016 for another two years – and to build in progressive reviews of our goals at different points in the years ahead. This year's annual report profiles Children on the Move. It is a phenomenon which will grow in the years ahead – it is also an area in which children's rights are easily overlooked or challenged.

45

grants were made by the Child Abuse Programme in 2015, totalling USD 19.40 million.



Find out more at www.oakfnd.org/childabuse



Supporting children on the move

Birke and Emawayish* were 12 and 10 years old when they were picked up by police on the streets of a small town in northern Ethiopia. They had left their village of their own free will and had wandered into the neighbouring town to find work – possibly as domestic workers. They were hoping to continue on to other towns, moving south in the direction of Addis Ababa.

“We know from our partners that children leave their homes alone, often for good reasons, such as abuse by parents or other adults, or because they are expected to work and send money home.”

– Blain Teketel,
Programme Officer,
Child Abuse Programme.

“To say that these children may be ‘at risk’ is a gross understatement!” said Florence Bruce, Director of the Child Abuse Programme. “When we met them they were protected by the local community and given food and a bed for the night until an agreement could be reached by local authorities as to what to do next.”

Birke and Emawayish were moving alone within their own country and the possibility of them being abused was very real. Risks for children who move for a range of reasons within or beyond borders exist, even if the danger is not always visible.

Children and mobility

Mobility of children is increasing within and across countries and regions, as a result of conflicts, political upheaval, poverty, climate change, demographic growth, urbanisation and discrimination.

*not their real names

Children also leave to increase their opportunities or simply in search of adventure. Sometimes entire families have little alternative but to move.

Readers will doubtless have in mind the tragic flow of children and families from Syria and other countries moving beyond borders to Europe in 2015, as well as the refugees and migrants from Africa, many of whom lost their lives just attempting the journey. In 2015, 3,771 refugees and migrants died or went missing in the Mediterranean Sea.² Many children and adolescents were with their own families, but others were – and are – unaccompanied, with peers, or with adults or families that are not their own.

Children and adolescents making their way to the US from Central and South America also made headlines – escaping violence and poverty at home. The extent of the movement surprised all observers and some services in the United States were not prepared to consider children’s best interests, nor their views, as they planned their future for them.

What all these children on the move have in common – whether they cross borders or not – is that:

- they are children and entitled to protection and other rights under international laws; and
- in their place of origin, on their journeys and at their destinations, they run huge risks of violence, abuse and exploitation.

“The international community’s aim to protect the rights of children in all situations falls well short of the international declarations and conventions to which most countries have signed up,” said Florence Bruce.

Migrants, refugees, or trafficked?

Getting to an approach that works for many is a challenge. It is a challenge in areas of origin where investments in children are often not the norm, or when children have to pay the price of conflicts and violence, poor governance or lack of resources. It is a challenge at borders where children become visible. It is a

challenge at destination points where children are cast as outsiders or even threats to local communities.

In terms of international funding, there has been a focus on specific situations in the past, such as on children who have been trafficked. While this is good, in the absence of solutions for children in other situations, it has tended to lead to funding and services being narrowed to serve only children who meet a criteria. Children such as Birke and Emawayish in the example above – who were not trafficked – often do not benefit from the major funding and programmes designed to support “victims”. Rather than taking the problem of children who move as a whole, a laser-focus on one aspect of movement, e.g., trafficking, will ignore the needs of others.

Partners and experts believe that a broad approach would be better to reduce risks and increase life opportunities for larger numbers of children in a range of mobility situations. Children on the Move is an umbrella definition that includes a range of situations, including street life, trafficking, slave-like conditions, refugees, the displaced and unaccompanied or accompanied migrants. This or other umbrella definitions may better support the protection rights of children granted by the Convention of the Rights of the Child to all children, regardless of their circumstances. It will also include diverse settings from across areas of origin, transit and destination.

Moving towards approaches that work for larger numbers of children is both important and challenging; it matters because a displaced child can become a refugee, an unaccompanied minor, migrate within or across borders, be smuggled, trafficked or end up sexually or otherwise abused and exploited. Choosing to protect some over others, when risks of abuse and exploitation are a danger for many, is not enough.

Conflicts, political upheaval, poverty, climate change, demographic growth, urbanisation and discrimination are forcing increasing numbers of children to migrate.

In 2015

3,771

refugees
and migrants
died or went
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Mediterranean
Sea.



Oak's funding

Over the years, the Child Abuse Programme has moved its attention from trafficking to recognising that all children who move need support. It seeks to recognise children's agency and the opportunities that mobility may offer to some. Working with a mandate on child abuse, the risks of abuse and exploitation for children on the move are a key concern to the Programme. This is why the Child Abuse Programme funds groups of actors at international, regional and national levels to:

- understand the problems better and find local solutions;
- help develop and test models that increase access to support and opportunities; and
- support groups that make problems and solutions more visible and bring the rights of children to be protected from violence and abuse to the fore.

Oak funds a range of initiatives globally to end the abuse, exploitation and violence against children on the move and to increase their opportunities. Over the years, Oak has supported: learning; conferences on working for and with children; children's initiatives; and organisations that support children directly. Some of our grantees include the following:

- **Terre des Hommes Netherlands**, which works with a network of organisations to reduce the abuse of children in northern Ethiopia (where there are high numbers of children on the move) and improve their access to support.
- **Speak Out!**, a project of the **Swiss National Youth Council**, which works with unaccompanied children and youth seeking asylum in Switzerland.
- **MARIO**, an inter-agency initiative, which works to protect children within and across borders in Europe.
- **Plan International, Interagency Group on Children on the Move, Save the Children**, and the **International Federation Terre des Hommes**, which have developed approaches to better understand and match programmes to children's needs.

Children and youth are part of the solution

There are pockets of promising practice in parts of West Africa, where children play a direct role in finding and shaping their own solutions. They do this by: informing peers; setting up a protective network; and acting as advocates for their own cause. The grassroots organisation the **African Movement of Working Children and Youth** (AMWCY) has been supporting children on the move for many years through a network it created to support young migrants travelling alone. This informal safety net supports children and youth across communities and countries.

Sixteen year old Mariko from Mali has met many children on the move in the bustling market facing her mother's restaurant in the outskirts of Bamako. She is one of more than 30 youth volunteers with AMWCY's child migration programme who meet at the restaurant every week.³

“It is a good place to keep an eye on children passing by. If they seem to need help, we approach them. Sometimes we offer meals to those who cannot buy food. Each of us has committed to sponsor a migrant child, taking them home to sleep and walking with them into the city the next day.”

- Mariko, youth volunteer with AMWCY in Mali

In addition, AMWCY has established listening centres where children can go to talk and receive guidance.

Looking ahead

As Oak seeks to increase the protection of and opportunities for children on the move, many possibilities remain to be explored. How can Oak and its partners tap into the sectors of healthcare, poverty alleviation and education to more deliberately reach children who are left with no other real choice than to move? How can they help those who already live in places of transit and destination? How can Oak's grant-making contribute to categorising these children less and instead offering improved support?

A change in approach in how the movement of children is addressed is one that demands a tectonic shift, if projections of movement over the next decade are to be believed. Children, states, experts and interested groups can shape durable solutions beyond fragmented approaches to one that increases the life chances and opportunities of larger numbers of children wherever they are.

"Can we review our approaches if these work only for the few and if inadequate support is available for the many?" said Anastasia Anthopoulos, Programme Officer of the Child Abuse Programme. "Can we stand firm in our support to the rights of children, even when they are perceived as threats and not children?" The Child Abuse Programme is, in this regard, challenged by reality. The numbers of children moving and the diversity of their circumstances around the world or within regions are already redefining classifications. "It may be time to pause our 'categories', listen to children and catch up with their realities," said Anastasia.



The photos throughout the Child Abuse Programme section of the report illustrate children on the move. According to the UNHCR, more than 60 million people are displaced by conflict around the world. 20.2 million are refugees.⁴ In Europe, one in five migrants is a child.⁵



Grants



© Mario Project/Terre des Hommes



© Jonathan Hymas/Save the Children

Ending the sexual exploitation of children

Applied Research and Communications Fund USD 249,206 (36 months)

To empower young children in Bulgaria and advance their rights by increasing digital literacy and strengthening the knowledge and skills of parents and teachers to support them.

ECPAT International USD 240,072 (12 months)

To support ECPAT in its preparations for the 2016 'Year of Action' to end the sexual exploitation of children.

ECPAT International USD 85,000 (5 months)

To gain endorsement from African Heads of State and high-level officials to include violence against children targets in the final Sustainable Development Goals.

Family for Every Child USD 300,000 (36 months)

To increase knowledge and strengthen practice on recovery and reintegration for children and adolescents affected by child sexual exploitation through an open, vibrant, locally accessible global learning network.

Save the Children Fund USD 849,662 (18 months)

To support Save the Children's global work on Children on the Move, prevention of sexual violence and online child abuse images in the Balkans.

SOS Femmes USD 100,000 (12 months)

To support research on the sexual exploitation of students and to support the counselling services of SOS Femmes for students and young people involved in different forms of sex work.

Terre des Hommes International Federation USD 1,631,971 (36 months)

To support the rights of children in and around mega sporting events so that their rights are respected, implemented and enforced.

Engaging men and boys in ending sexual abuse

Association Resource Center for Women MARTA

USD 250,000 (36 months)
To strengthen the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in Latvia by advocating for systemic change in legislation and institutional practices.

Child Rights International Network (CRIN)

USD 250,000 (36 months)
To provide core support to CRIN, a global research, policy and advocacy organisation that works to advance children's rights.

Le 2e observatoire USD 328,949 (36 months)

To support the development of guidelines for childcare professionals and primary school teachers to help prevent gender discrimination in the French-speaking part of Switzerland.

Promundo US USD 1,493,751 (36 months)

To provide core support to Promundo for its work via its offices in Brazil, sub-Saharan Africa, the US and Europe, and specific support for work in Uganda, Moldova, Bulgaria and Latvia.

Preventing violence, protecting children

Animus Association Foundation USD 629,994 (60 months)

To combat bullying in schools in Bulgaria so that children feel safe and, along with parents, professionals and institutions, are empowered to tackle the problem.

AssemblyO-Witter gGmbH USD 300,000 (12 months)

To support global advocacy efforts in the prevention of violence against children.

Association Kairos USD 270,036 (36 months)

To support the Association Kairos to protect teenagers and young people in Switzerland from risky situations, including those of sexual violence.

Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance USD 1,062,746 (36 months)

To prevent the sexual abuse of children and to provide the best care to survivors through participation, the promotion of resilience and the development of child-friendly environments.

Child Rights Connect USD 486,979 (36 months)

To advocate for and develop the capacity of national civil society actors, including children, to engage with the international human rights system to achieve children's enjoyment of their rights.

ChildFund Alliance USD 100,000 (6 months)

To help establish a global partnership to end violence against children as the platform to implement and advance violence prevention within the Sustainable Development Goals framework.

Citizens for Justice USD 380,000 (24 months)

To support three civil society organisations working in Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda to conduct research on the impact on children of World Bank supported extractive industry (mining, oil and gas) and advocate for actions to mitigate their negative impacts.

Consortium for Street Children

USD 551,051 (29 months)

To find out how resilience-informed programming impacts children at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse, and if such programming contributes to better outcomes for children in low- and middle-income countries.

Emmanuel Development Association

USD 500,000 (36 months)

To raise the awareness of child trafficking among communities in northern Ethiopia and to use government structures to prevent the movement of children and adolescents that leads to trafficking and exploitation.

Ethiopian Sociology Social Anthropology and Social Work Association

USD 246,318 (36 months)

To build the capacities of practitioners, academics and students of social work, sociology and anthropology in violence prevention and key research skills in Ethiopia.

Eurochild

USD 882,000 (37 months)

To provide core support that will allow Eurochild to implement its strategic plan 2014-2018 and to support the organisation's transition towards a dynamic, membership-led network with diverse income sources.

Firelight Foundation

USD 300,000 (34 months)

To strengthen community-based organisations in Tanzania and Kenya so that children and youth are protected from abuse and exploitation.

Firelight Foundation

USD 690,000 (36 months)

To communicate with faith-based communities in the US about the harmful impact of institutional care on orphans and other vulnerable children and to help them transition to alternative family and community-based care options.

Forum on Sustainable Child Empowerment

USD 699,712 (48 months)

To protect children on the move in the southern part of Ethiopia from abuse and exploitation.

Global Health Uganda Ltd.

USD 249,233 (18 months)

To promote dialogue among key sectors in Uganda on preventing violence against children and to inform the development of violence prevention initiatives within and across the sectors.

Harvard University

USD 99,652 (5 months)

To study how relevant sectors understand and respond to risks and abuse of Children on the Move, as well as what puts these children at particular risk of sexual abuse and exploitation.

INHOPE Foundation

USD 350,000 (36 months)

To expand the network of INHOPE Hotlines, a network of hotlines in 45 countries worldwide committed to eliminating child sexual abuse on the internet.

Instituto PAPAÍ

USD 181,322 (18 months)

To consult children, adolescents and youth in Recife on what they think needs to change in order to develop a plan of action and engage groups to deliver these changes.

International Center for Research and Policy on Children

USD 175,000 (24 months)

To advocate for the implementation of the Rio policy on street children in Brazil.

Naia Association

USD 249,871 (36 months)

To help educate healthcare professionals on the crucial role they play in the health and wellbeing of children, youth and families in Bulgaria.

National Center for Child Abuse Prevention

USD 489,166 (36 months)

To strengthen the child protection system at local and national levels in Moldova.

Network of European Foundations

USD 1,000,000 (36 months)

To develop an effective intermediary philanthropic institution in East Africa that will support community-based initiatives addressing children's rights, violence prevention and prevention of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation.

Network of European Foundations

USD 250,000 (24 months)

To provide support to the partners of Elevate Children Funders Group Secretariat and ensure that key goals, targets and indicators relating to violence against children are maintained in the documents shaping the successor framework of the millennium development goals.

Network of European Foundations

USD 609,000 (36 months)

To support the Evaluation Challenge Fund to research violence prevention against children in low-income countries and communicate these findings to people involved in policy design and programming for children.

New Venture Fund

USD 25,000 (5 months)

To identify, map and align donor investments behind the Government of Moldova's national strategy on child and family protection (2014-2020).

PANOS Eastern Africa

USD 248,886 (24 months)

To continue highlighting both prevention of and response to violence against children in the media by linking child-focused organisations with media outlets in Uganda and Tanzania.

Retrak

USD 296,557 (36 months)

To prevent unsafe migration of children in southern Ethiopia and improve the protection of Children on the Move in the destination towns of Hosanna and Addis Ababa.

Save the Children Fund

USD 380,234 (36 months)

To facilitate stronger child protection programming and policy in Uganda, Tanzania and Sierra Leone.

Sheila McKechnie Foundation (SMK)

USD 355,763 (24 months)

To support SMK to continue developing and delivering a "Campaigning and influencing support" programme to the Child Abuse Programme's partners.

Swiss National Youth Council (SNYC)

USD 534,981 (36 months)

To support SNYC to continue its project "Speak out" for unaccompanied migrant children seeking asylum and for children without documents.

Social Services Agency

USD 248,416 (36 months)

To provide a supportive and safe family environment for each child in Latvia who has been left without parental care.

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award - Bulgaria

USD 59,993 (15 months)

To empower young people from institutions in Bulgaria to develop life skills and personal qualities that enable them to be more independent and self aware of their capabilities by adapting and piloting the Duke of Edinburgh International Award Program.

University of Oxford - Department of International Development

USD 369,683 (36 months)

To conduct a qualitative study on violence affecting children and use the findings to identify policy and practice gaps to promote violence prevention and response work.

Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation

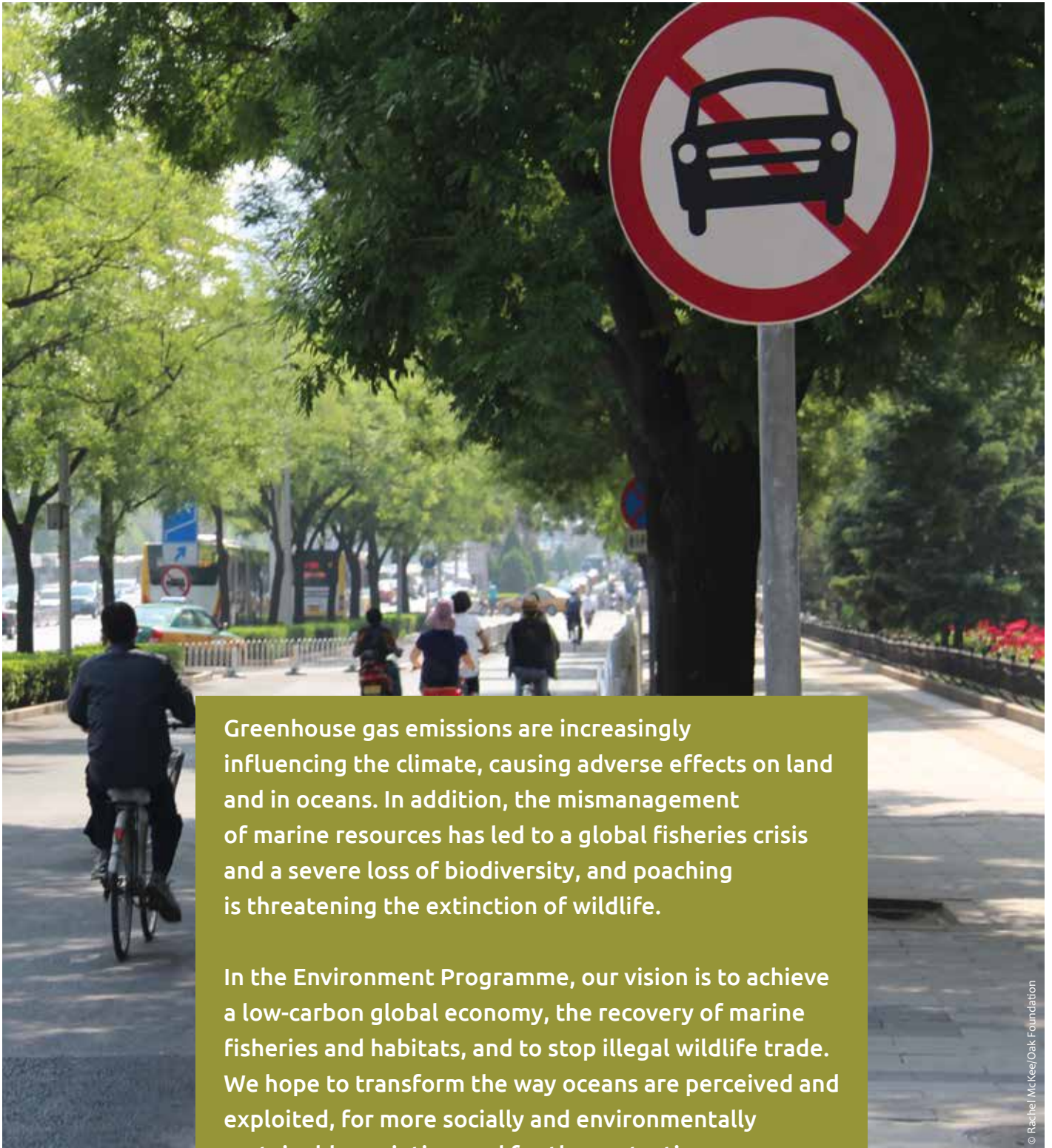
USD 350,000 (36 months)

To enable grassroots organisations in Bulgaria to support children and youth in the face of adversity or challenging circumstances.



This is a list of our grants approved in 2015. For a comprehensive list and full descriptions, please visit our grant database at www.oakfnd.org/grants

Environment



Greenhouse gas emissions are increasingly influencing the climate, causing adverse effects on land and in oceans. In addition, the mismanagement of marine resources has led to a global fisheries crisis and a severe loss of biodiversity, and poaching is threatening the extinction of wildlife.

In the Environment Programme, our vision is to achieve a low-carbon global economy, the recovery of marine fisheries and habitats, and to stop illegal wildlife trade. We hope to transform the way oceans are perceived and exploited, for more socially and environmentally sustainable societies, and for the protection of endangered species. Our grant-making focuses on three main areas: climate change mitigation, marine resource conservation and illegal wildlife trade, which is a recent addition to the Environment Programme's grant-making.



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Reflections

In 2015 the Environment Programme carried out an evaluation on its impact since 2009 (see our website). We found that Oak Foundation has been one of the most critical funders in the areas of policy and capacity building in climate change and marine conservation. Based on lessons learned from this evaluation, a new strategic framework was designed for the period 2016-2020. There will be three major strategic shifts.

Firstly, based on the strength of policies that have been put in place, the Climate Programme will put the emphasis on their implementation and enforcement, as well as in large-scale government programmes which target greenhouse gas emissions. Secondly, the Marine Programme will evolve from having a regional approach to having a broader, global impact. Improving the sustainability of the wild fisheries sector will be the main goal. We are launching a global campaign to reduce the leakage of plastics into the oceans. Thirdly, a new sub-programme has been created to address the urgent issue of wildlife trade.

For the Marine Programme, 2015 was particularly eventful in the US Arctic. Shell abandoned its plans to drill for oil and gas in the Arctic. The US Department of Interior subsequently cancelled requests to extend Arctic Ocean leases. This good news was preceded by efforts of **Pew**, **WWF**, the **Alaska Marine Conservation Council** and **Nunamta Aulukestai** to protect Bristol Bay from off-shore oil and gas leasing.

In addition, an Oceana-led campaign against illegal fishing and fraud was

successful, with US President Obama announcing a plan to track wild fish and crustaceans in the US. This will help eradicate a global black market of illegal fishing, estimated at USD 23 billion a year.

We hope that 2014 and 2015 will be remembered as pivotal years for addressing climate change. 2015 started with the hopeful news from the International Energy Agency that the growth in man-made CO₂ emissions had plateaued for the first time in 2014. Another signal that a true energy revolution has perhaps been set in motion is that solar power is becoming even cheaper than natural gas. In addition, the climate negotiations in Paris in December 2015 generated a positive, competitive “race to the top”, with countries making significant commitments to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

Europe has pledged to reduce overall emissions by 40 per cent by 2030 (base year 1990). China announced that its emissions will peak by 2030. The US has committed to reducing its emissions between 26 and 28 per cent below 2005 levels by 2025. Brazil has already peaked its emissions and will promote massive forest restoration and reforestation. India has committed to invest in 100 low-carbon cities.

We are proud of how hard our grantees have worked to support their respective governments to make ambitious pledges. Our strategy in the next five years will focus on how to ensure that these fundamental pledges are met and surpassed. Well done to all of our grantees and thank you!

44

grants were made by the Environment Programme in 2015, totalling USD 39.87 million.

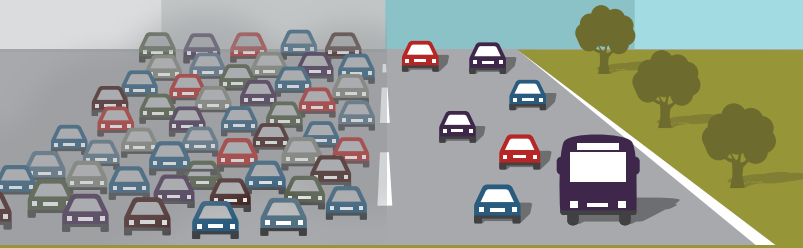


Find out more at www.oakfnd.org/environment

Supporting cities in Brazil, China and India to develop sustainable transport

Pollution levels in big cities are rising.

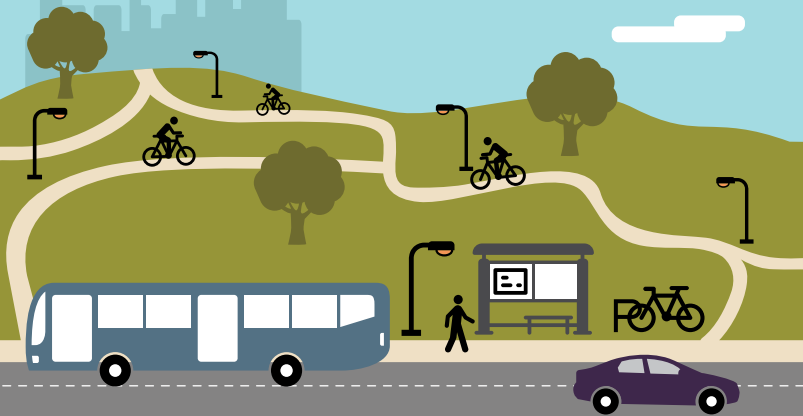
How are Oak grantees helping cities reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve transportation services? See below:



By developing faster and more frequent bus and train services.



By developing bike lanes and bike stations at bus stops.



By creating safer transportation environments.



Sustainable cities all around the world

Geographically, historically and culturally, you might think that Brazil, China and India have very little in common. However, while these countries may be worlds apart on many levels, all three have been developing at exponential rates and are facing similar challenges. Enormous cities such as Beijing, Rio de Janeiro and New Delhi are home to millions of people and urbanisation is taking place at an unprecedented pace. People are moving in great numbers from the countryside to the cities and infrastructure is rapidly expanding to welcome and cater for the influx.

“The rise of the South is unprecedented in its speed and scale. Never in history have the living conditions and prospects of so many people changed so dramatically and so fast.”

- United Nations Human Development Report 2013

At the same time, each country is facing the inevitable challenges that industrial growth brings. Burgeoning infrastructure has had to keep pace with the increasing demands of newly arrived city-dwellers. Where non-polluting bicycles or rickshaws were once common, cars are swiftly becoming the norm. There are 5.57 million vehicles in Beijing alone.⁶ Automobile owners in Brazil have doubled in the last decade, with one in five now owning a car⁷ and as the salaries in India increase, so does the use of personal motor vehicles.

In tandem, pollution levels have soared. Once blue skies are often completely hidden from view, particularly in parts

of India and China, as heavy grey smog enshrouds many of these countries' larger cities. At certain times of the year, citizens are obliged to wear masks to help them breathe through a thick fog of acrid fumes. Traffic clogs the streets, making getting around difficult. Brazil, China and India are faced with having to find ways to reduce pollution and cope with the increasing pressure on public infrastructure.

"Most transport systems are built on the US model, which caters for cars," explained Karen Suassuna, Oak Foundation Programme Officer for Brazil. "But people are starting to realise that this model doesn't work for every country. Mobility is a big issue in large cities – buying more cars is not the answer. Governments need to look for sustainable ways to help people get around cities quickly, while at the same time reducing greenhouse gas emissions."

Many people believe that now is a unique moment in history. Brazil, China and India have the chance to support new, cleaner, greener transport systems that will reduce traffic, pollution and transit times, while improving the quality of life of their citizens. "Now governments have the chance to act," explained Richard Liu, Oak's China Climate Programme Officer. "While infrastructure is still being put in place, Brazil, China and India could leap forward and lead the world by setting a firm foundation for a future green economy."

Oak supports several not-for-profit organisations in these three countries, which, while working to increase the efficiency and speed of transport services in some of the world's largest cities, are also trying to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These organisations are working alongside governments to improve urban transport, reduce commute times and traffic, and build greener, cleaner cities to improve the life quality of their citizens for generations to come. Read on to find out about our grantees' work in each country!

Brazil

It is widely known that the bulk of Brazilian CO₂ emissions derive from the conversion of forests to pastures for cattle ranching and agriculture. However, due to decreasing deforestation rates, the energy sector is the single major source of increase in the country's emissions of late: they quadrupled between 1970 and 2013.⁸

Oak supports the **Instituto de Energia e Meio Ambiente** (IEMA) in São Paulo, which works to address this problem across the country. "There is clearly a link between greenhouse gas emissions and poor urban mobility conditions in major Brazilian cities," said André Luis Ferreira, the president of IEMA. "That's why it's important to work on expanding and improving people's accessibility to good transport options in cities, while simultaneously reducing greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution."

A 2014 IEMA study of urban mobility in the city of Belo Horizonte in the south-east of the country estimates that by increasing public transport and cycling options, greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced by 29 per cent by 2020.⁹

Several cities have seen major investments in transport – in particular Rio de Janeiro in the lead-up to the 2014 FIFA World Cup and the 2016 Olympics. With the support of the **Institute for Transportation and Development Policy** (ITDP), some 150 kms of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), a low-carbon, economic and faster transport system, have been developed. Known as TransCarioca, the Rio BRT corridor crosses 19 suburbs, has 47 stations and carries an estimated 320,000 passengers a day. Since it opened, some 500 regular buses have been removed from the streets, reducing congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.¹⁰

This is a relief for many, especially for citizens living in Rio's outskirts, where inadequate transport services are often the norm. As well as cutting people off from accessing the city easily, this can have other serious knock-on effects. For example, citizens can have a harder time finding employment. >>

By increasing public transport and cycling options in Brazil, greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced by

29%

by 2020.



In São Paulo,
more than

8,000

bike racks will
be installed on
the streets, with
bike-parking
facilities at every
bus terminal.



“Where you live greatly influences your chance of getting a job. Many people do not trust that you will arrive on time to work if you live too far from the office. Where you live is often the first question you are asked in an interview.”

- Angela,

Tour guide, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

» Brazil is living through a major urban mobility crisis in its mega-cities,” said Karen. “An increase in the affluence of the new middle class, pumped by misguided government incentives to buy cars, has led to traffic jams. Paradoxically, this has brought with it a decrease in labour productivity, due to hours lost in traffic. It has also led to public dissatisfaction.” Indeed, poor quality public urban mobility services were a key reason for the huge wave of street protests that swept the country in June 2013.

Following these protests, President Dilma promised to establish a national urban mobility plan, requested that major cities also develop plans and pledged tens of billions of US dollars to make improvements. “However, in view of the recent economic downturn, the promised funds are failing to materialise,” said Karen. There are nonetheless some hopeful signs – Oak grantees in seven major cities in Brazil are supporting the development of urban mobility plans. They are deploying dedicated bus lanes, BRT lines and other forms of emission-reducing transport. For example, ITDP has been working with the government on an ambitious new plan for 400 kilometres of bike-lanes to be completed in São Paulo in 2016. More than 8,000 bike racks will be installed on the São Paulo streets, with bike-parking facilities at every bus terminal. “Despite this progress,” said Karen, “Public pressure needs to be maintained.”

China

Birthplace to one of the world’s earliest recorded civilizations, China is a vast country with a rich, varied heritage and culture, beautiful landscapes and a long and interesting history. With a population of 1.3 billion, China recently became the world’s second largest economy. Its GDP has grown at an average annual rate of about ten per cent over the last three decades, lifting more than 500 million people out of poverty.¹¹

Unfortunately, pollution levels have soared alongside economic growth. China has committed to tackling the rising problem of greenhouse gas emissions. In 2014 clean energy investment jumped from USD 60 billion to USD 90 billion, and in mid-2015,¹² coal consumption dropped for the first time in years.¹³ “This is a massive step towards a safer and more sustainable future,” said Richard Liu.

Although historically a great biking country, nowadays cars in Beijing are used for twice as many journeys as bikes. Therefore, one of the first things being tackled is the overwhelming number of cars on the road. Already local governments in Shanghai and Beijing have imposed licence-plate restrictions to curb car-ownership, with a lottery restricting the number of new cars being introduced to Beijing’s roads to 15,000 every two months. This has left more than 2.5 million people on the waiting list for a new car.¹⁴

ITDP has been working to build BRT systems in cities around China. It has been involved in two projects already – in Guangzhou, a large city of more than 14 million people in the south of the country, and in Yichang, a city of some 4 million people situated further north on the Yangtze River.

The BRT has so far been successful and popular. “Urban villages” are being built around the stops it serves and Government officials are using it as a “gold standard” example in excellent transport



© Rachel McKee/Oak Foundation

systems. Chinese BRT systems often incorporate a double-lane, which allows buses to pass each other when there is a queue and this keeps the transport system running swiftly, unlike earlier versions of BRT. “I hear a lot of people are not sure what to think about the new BRT system,” said a Yichang taxi driver. “I think it will improve the quality of life, and hopefully the air in this city too.”

Indeed, in an ITDP survey, conducted before the Guangzhou BRT was up and running, only 25 per cent of people reported that they were happy with the air quality in the city. After the introduction of BRT, this had risen to 64 per cent, demonstrating a clear improvement, at least in public perception, of reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition, various municipal governments across the country are introducing other greener transport options, including high quality bus, train and underground train services, bike tracks, rental bikes and other initiatives. Electric bikes are a phenomenal new development – in less than ten years, the Chinese have bought 230 million electric bicycles.¹⁵ Many environmental NGOs are hopeful that commuters will return to other, more sustainable and greener forms of transport. “We are trying to break the tendency among the public to equate car-ownership with success,” said May Mei from WildAid, which works to encourage greener forms of transport. “By encouraging people to use the transport system, bicycles or just

simply to walk, we hope we can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Change is slow, but people are starting to become increasingly aware of the steps they can take to help make China greener.”

“China has an opportunity to implement sustainable urban transport right now, and perhaps become a world leader in sustainable green transport systems.”

-Daizong Liu,
Director, EMBARQ

Indeed, many Chinese NGOs believe that the moment to introduce green transport is here. “In these relatively early stages of growth, the largest window of opportunity for China should be seized now,” said Daizong Liu, Director of EMBARQ, the sustainable transport programme at the World Resources Institute, which recommends sustainable urban development practices to improve the quality of life in all cities. “If we opt for more sustainable transport options at this relatively early stage, we can avoid locking cities in unsustainable practices in this stage of growth. China has an opportunity to implement sustainable urban transport right now, and perhaps even become a world leader in sustainable green transport systems.”

In less than 10 years, the Chinese have bought

230 million

electric bicycles.





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India

Some
91%
 of women surveyed said that they did not feel safe travelling in shared rickshaws at night in comparison to

61%
 of men.

On a mission to eradicate poverty by 2020, India introduced free-market reforms in the early 1990s. Since then, its cities have been growing rapidly and are now home to about 40 per cent of the total population. This has created a strain on existing infrastructure, including on roads and public transport systems.

“India’s public transport systems are among the most heavily used in the world. At this point in time, it makes sense to develop it well, so that it runs sustainably, serving citizens for years to come.”

- Sahba Chauhan,
 Environment Programme Officer
 for India

Federal governments are planning sustainable transport systems, but the sheer speed of expansion has meant that more technical capacity is needed. Current transportation options tend to emit high levels of carbon emissions and public transport tends not to be safe, in particular for women. A survey by Oak grantee, the Mahila Housing Sewa Trust,¹⁶ carried out in Ranchi, Jharkhand, showed that women and men face different challenges when using public transport in India.

Ranchi is the capital of Jharkhand, a state in the northeast of the country that remains largely rural but is urbanising fast. Overall, nearly half of all trips made in this city are on foot or by bike and a third are by public transport. The survey revealed that some 91 per cent of women said they did not feel safe travelling in shared rickshaws at night (a common form of transport), in comparison to 61 per cent of men. In addition, while 46 per cent of women cyclists consider harassment to be a problem, men cyclists do not. Isolated roads are a problem for 59 per cent of women cyclists, compared to 26 per cent of men. From these figures, it is clear that public transport systems in India need to take into consideration the specific needs of women and girls, giving priority to initiatives that make walking and public transport safe, accessible and convenient for all.

The ITDP believes that if there were fewer economic constraints in the country, many people would shift to buying personal motor vehicles, following in the footsteps of Brazil, China and the West. Addressing the problems faced by people who walk, cycle or use public transport will encourage them to continue to use these modes of transport, reducing the congestion and pollution in the city, even as it grows.

The **Centre for Green Mobility (CGM)**, in conjunction with the Delhi Development Authority, has introduced a green mobility policy on bicycle sharing and renting in New Delhi. “This is an important step in spurring cycling facilities in Delhi,” said Anuj Malhotra from CGM. “It will provide guidance on governance, planning,



financing and operational structures of cycle-sharing systems.” The CGM is also providing technical assistance and advice to the **Delhi Development Authority**, the **New Delhi Municipal Council** and **Public Works Department** in upgrading the streets to have dedicated space for cyclists and pedestrians.

Oak is pleased to be able to support India as it moves forward into greener and more sustainable transport systems.

Oak and green transport

In 2015 around 60 per cent of Oak’s climate-related funding was dedicated to the issue of transportation. This included: deploying a low-carbon mass system of public transportation/mobility within some major cities; and supporting a transition away from fossil fuels and towards electric vehicles. We hope that these steps towards greener transport will make a difference to the lives of many, in terms of saving time, improving health and ensuring the safety of all choosing to use public transport options and bicycles.

In 2015, around

60%

of Oak’s climate-related funding was dedicated to the issue of transportation.

Grants



Climate Change

Agencia Publica

USD 197,116 (24 months)

To provide core support to Agencia Publica, which produces high-quality non-partisan investigative reporting guided by public interest in Brazil and Latin America.

Center for Policy Research (CPR)

USD 297,930 (36 months)

To continue to provide core support to CPR to promote the integration of climate policies within the overall development framework in India.

Clean Air Asia

USD 500,000 (36 months)

To support Clean Air Asia in promoting science-based and stakeholder-inclusive air quality management in China.

Climate Action Network Europe

USD 283,364 (31 months)

To abolish fossil fuel subsidies in Europe by 2020, in accordance with the commitments made by G20 leaders to “phase out and rationalise over the medium term inefficient fossil fuel subsidies while providing targeted support for the poorest”.

ClimateWorks Foundation, USA

USD 2,650,000 (26 months)

To establish Instituto Clima e Sociedade in Brazil as a fully operational grant-making institution.

European Climate Foundation (ECF)

USD 4,000,000 (36 months)

To support the efforts of the ECF as it engages with not-for-profit organisations, businesses and governments to balance the competitiveness, sustainability and security of energy supply.

Fundación Avina

USD 600,000 (36 months)

To strengthen the Climate Observatory as a network and to ensure that Brazil sustains an appropriate level of ambition during the post-2020 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Fundo Socioambiental CASA

USD 100,000 (15 months)

To support communities in Recife, Brazil to act on the issues of sustainability and social technology in their communities.

Global Campaign for Climate Action (GCCA)

USD 50,000 (6 months)

To support the maintenance and development of services and support to key stakeholders aligned with GCCA's new strategy for 2016-2020, following the UN conference on climate change in December 2015.

Guangdong Harmony Foundation

USD 494,750 (36 months)

To advance Chinese social and civic organisations in the areas of green supply chain management, industrial pollution control and sustainable community development.

Natural Resources Defense Council Inc. (NRDC)

USD 2,000,000 (60 months)

To provide core support to NRDC to accelerate change and tackle critical gaps in China's transition to a low-carbon and sustainable future.

New Venture Fund

USD 1,600,344 (36 months)

To cap the expansion of the tar sands in Alberta, Canada and eliminate the impact that tar sands extraction, development and transportation has on biodiversity and human health.

Nucleo de Apoio à Pesquisa e Educação Continuada

USD 207,405 (18 months)

To provide quantitative analyses of the economic, social and environmental costs and benefits of public policies for sustainable development.

Our Cities

USD 1,000,000 (36 months)

To promote inclusive and sustainable cities in Brazil via a platform for civic engagement in Recife and in 25 other cities across the country.

Purpose

USD 999,984 (18 months)

To accelerate innovative public mobilisation campaigns and to contribute to strategic shifts in public opinion, power balances, policy and markets on climate and related issues.

Renew Canada

USD 300,000 (9 months)

To build support for climate policies and a clean energy transition in local communities in Canada.

Right Livelihood Award Foundation

USD 100,000 (12 months)

To honour Sheila Watt-Cloutier as a Right Livelihood 2015 Laureate for her outstanding advocacy for her lifelong work to protect the Inuit of the Arctic.

Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation

USD 400,000 (38 months)

To assist India in adopting a clean energy, low carbon development pathway.

West Coast Environmental Law Association

USD 100,000 (12 months)

To support the emergence of a public and legal narrative that fossil fuel companies and other large-scale greenhouse gas producers in the US should pay compensation for the damages caused by their products and operations.

WildAid

USD 500,000 (36 months)

To create and conduct a series of high profile public awareness campaigns on reducing greenhouse gas and air pollution emissions from the transportation sector in China with a focus on new energy vehicles and bicycles.



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**World Economic Forum
USD 100,000 (7 months)**

To support and enhance the design and delivery of France's COP21 business engagement strategy, to create a more positive political environment that will lead to a successful COP21 outcome.

Marine

**Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association
USD 350,000 (48 months)**

To support fisheries stewardship policy development and advocacy work at the state, federal and national levels and secure resource access for the next generation of community-based fishermen.

**Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF)
USD 500,000 (32 months)**

To support EJF to secure greater governance of the South Korean fisheries.

**Inuit Circumpolar Council - Greenland
USD 366,243 (36 months)**

To promote conservation efforts in the area of Pikiilasorsuaq – the North Water Polynya – that strike a balance between socially and culturally important subsistence hunting and the need to protect the habitat for generations to come.

**Inuit Circumpolar Council-Alaska
USD 275,000 (36 months)**

To advance Inuit priorities related to sustaining Inuit culture and society, promoting adaptation strategies for sustainable Inuit communities and increasing an understanding of the human dimension within the Arctic.

**Kawerak Inc.
USD 199,827 (36 months)**

To improve and expand local, tribal management of marine mammals, particularly the Pacific walrus, in coastal Alaskan communities.

**Marine Fish Conservation Network
USD 350,000 (36 months)**

To maintain and strengthen the conservation and management objectives of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act in the United States.

**Marine Stewardship Council
USD 300,000 (36 months)**

To contribute to more sustainable approaches to commercial fishing practices in the Spanish fishery sector by helping secure livelihoods and improving marine conservation.

**McGill University
USD 77,446 (12 months)**

To research and develop a business and implementation plan for a Circumpolar Inuit News and Information Network for Inuit people across Russia, the United States, Canada and Greenland.

**Native American Rights Fund
USD 300,000 (36 months)**

To protect the Bering Sea Elder 39 member tribes' rights to subsistence hunt and fish in traditional areas by giving them a voice in decision-making processes.

**Nature Conservancy
USD 1,000,000 (12 months)**

To help establish the second largest marine protected area in the Indian Ocean, covering up to 400,000 square kilometres.

**Ocean Conservancy
USD 200,000 (12 months)**

To develop systemic solutions at a scale that will help stop the flow of plastics and other consumer waste from reaching the ocean through locally appropriate interventions.

**Peace Development Fund
USD 400,000 (36 months)**

To advance the creation of an ecologically connected network of Arctic marine protected areas, as well as the development of a regional seas programme, through the Arctic Council.

**Pew Charitable Trusts
USD 750,000 (36 months)**

To promote science and community-based conservation of the Arctic marine environment in the United States, Canada, Greenland and international waters of the Central Arctic Ocean.

**University of Alaska-Anchorage
USD 550,000 (36 months)**

To strengthen the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program science curriculum, particularly in relation to Geographic Information Systems.

**Zoological Society of London
USD 255,789 (24 months)**

To reduce single-use plastic bottles in London by optimising the resources and networks of the alliance group Marine CoLABoration.

Mesoamerica

**Environmental Defense Inc.
USD 200,000 (24 months)**

To create a permanent, national, rights-based fishery regime that will assist in putting Belize's ecologically and economically important coral reefs on a durable path to recovery.

**Julian Cho Society
USD 121,760 (24 months)**

To assist 39 Maya communities of southern Belize to negotiate and implement the settlement order based on the Caribbean Court of Justice's recent judgement that reaffirmed Maya land rights.



**Mesoamerican Reef Fund
USD 10,000,000 (60 months)**

To establish a Belize Marine Conservation Trust Fund in order to provide long-term financial sustainability for natural resources management and conservation initiatives.

**Oceana Inc.
USD 850,000 (30 months)**

To work with the Government of Belize to adopt a legislative position against offshore oil activities in Belize in order to safeguard Belize's world-renowned marine resources.

**Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management (SATIIM)
USD 689,687 (60 months)**

To build the institutional self-reliance and capacity of SATIIM so that it continues to function as a national and global leader in environmental and human right defence and sustainable development.

**United Nations Development Program - COMPACT
USD 500,000 (36 months)**

To re-grant to civil society organisations that engage local communities in the conservation of the Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System World Heritage Site.

**Wildlife Conservation Society
USD 850,000 (36 months)**

To achieve national impact in marine protected areas and fisheries management by improving conservation outcomes at Glovers Reef and South Water Caye Marine Reserves in Belize.



This is a list of grants approved in 2015. For a comprehensive list and full descriptions, please visit our grant database at www.oakfnd.org/grants



The photos throughout the Environment Programme section of this report illustrate green transport options in Brazil, China and India. Oak supports grantees in these three countries to help implement transport options such as high quality bus, train and underground train services, bike tracks, rental bikes and electric bikes.



Housing and Homelessness



In the Housing and Homelessness Programme, we focus on preventing homelessness by funding sustainable solutions that improve the economic and social wellbeing of marginalised youth, adults and families. We have three priorities: promoting economic self-sufficiency; increasing the availability and supply of affordable housing; and preventing homelessness.

Grants within the programme are wide-ranging in size. We partner with organisations working both nationally and locally in Boston, New York and Philadelphia in the United States and in London, Belfast, South Wales, Glasgow and Birmingham in the United Kingdom. Within each location, we aim to fund projects relevant to the three priorities. In addition, we have adopted specific objectives that recognise particular issues in some of the localities where we make grants.



Reflections

The trend of contracting public expenditure continues in the United Kingdom and the United States. In the UK we are halfway through an unprecedented ten-year period of year-on-year cuts to public expenditure. In the US advocates are battling to get the number of households helped through rental assistance back up to pre-sequestration, 2013 levels.

The resources available to Oak's Housing and Homelessness Programme (HHP) cannot begin to compensate for loss of public funding, so we ask ourselves what should the focus of our grant-making be? Our conclusion is that there are many ways that we can make an impact, despite the operating environment. Two of these ways are featured below:

- There are market forces and systems failures that act to compound poverty and in 2015 we made a number of grants that explore and respond to these. In the UK a grant made to the University of Bristol supports the Personal Finance Research Institute to revisit the 'poverty premium'. We hope this review will guide our future work as well as the work of other stakeholders. The market fails families who need access to low-cost credit. Support to Moneyline in the UK will enable the expansion of services so that several thousand families in Stoke will have access to modest loans at a lower cost. In the US we provided core funding to the Center for Responsible Lending, which continues to challenge predatory forces across a range of financial products.

- We support advocacy efforts that go beyond asking for increased expenditure and which question the way that existing resources are used and distributed. Examples include: the 'Healthy Row House' project in Philadelphia, which explores how to expand activity to repair the city's existing housing stock. 'On solid Ground' is a broad coalition, taking a fresh approach to tackling Massachusetts' enduring homelessness problem. In the UK, Russell Webster, hosted by Clinks, is designing a tool to help commissioners and service providers decide whether 'Payment-by-Results' is an appropriate way to structure funding for particular services.

Working together and coordinating services always results in a more holistic outcome and when funding is tight it has added potency. In this year's report we have detailed some of the ways that our partners have been able to enhance their services by strengthening the links between the fields of health and homelessness.



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grants were made by the Housing and Homelessness Programme in 2015, totalling USD 19.91 million.



Find out more at www.oakfnd.org/housing



Health and homelessness services – the power of working together

Bart was 34 and working as a security guard when he was admitted to hospital with acute myeloid leukaemia.

“I had no savings and was on the minimum wage. I had been staying with a friend, but was not able to return there because my friend was afraid that he might ‘catch’ the cancer.”

- Bart, one-time homeless person

Bart had to undergo chemotherapy, which meant repeated visits to the hospital. However, he had nowhere to live. The London borough where he had previously lived was reluctant to house him, despite his medical reports.

There are many cases such as Bart’s. Bad housing conditions, homelessness and poor health are intrinsically linked and it is well known that poor health is both a cause and a result of homelessness.

The complexity of providing quality healthcare to the homeless is the reason why the fields of homelessness and health need to find ways to work together. As it is, the healthcare system and homeless organisations are set up to work separately from each other. This hampers the possibility of reaching the most vulnerable. Medical professionals do not know the housing status of their patients, which limits the scope for intervention. In addition, it is difficult to provide ongoing healthcare to the homeless or those in danger of losing their homes.

A lack of joined-up working across sectors has often been cited by politicians and policy-makers as a fundamental barrier to resolving social problems. In 2013 the Minister of State for Care and Support, Norman Lamb, said, "People don't want healthcare or social care, they just want the best care."

"Working together produces better outcomes for people," said Amanda Beswick, Director of Oak's Housing and Homelessness Programme. "Yet there are some clear barriers to achieving this common-sense logic, both structural and cultural."

Oak funds initiatives that work to strengthen the links between the homelessness sector and health providers. These include Pathway, which helped Bart, mentioned above, find a home.

Integrated working across government agencies or between not-for-profit organisations is a common theme running through HHP grant-making. Oak sees firsthand the challenges and the benefits when services work together. We asked our grantees some important questions about their work. Read on to find out what they are doing to link the two sectors of housing and healthcare.


Can health providers detect early signs of housing distress?

People at risk of losing their home are not always that easy to reach. Medical appointments are one way to make contact with people who do not use other services – they provide a window of opportunity to talk through issues that contribute to people's ill health, such as poor housing. Healthcare sessions can provide ways to recognise the signs that someone is struggling to keep his or her home, or that the condition of a person's housing is contributing to their ill-health.

The Govan Law Centre (GLC), based in Scotland, provides free legal services to people on low incomes for housing, debt, discrimination, education, employment and welfare.

GLC has established weekly Rights Hubs in the four main psychiatric hospitals in Glasgow. These Hubs help the most vulnerable and marginalised people in the city find out about their rights in regard to welfare benefits, debt and housing.

In this way, GLC strengthens referral routes between mental health services and homelessness prevention services across the city.

 "Our work is clearly having a positive impact on patients. This is in terms of resolving housing and related issues, but also in terms of health, wellbeing, recovery and discharge."

- Alistair Sharp,
Govan Law Centre

"A key factor to our success was having someone champion our cause," said Alistair. "In this case, it was one of the National Health Services' mental health service operational managers – he certainly opened doors for us. He saw the immediate benefit and impact of our work with patients. We developed a shared vision of how benefits could be expanded across other psychiatric hospitals in the Glasgow area."

The **Boston Medical Center** has always had a progressive view on homelessness. It is one of Boston's largest hospitals and has, for many years, helped homeless people with medical problems.

Its Elders Living at Home programme identifies housing problems that may put older patients at risk of becoming homeless. It then partners with the Medical Legal Partnership to help resolve these problems so that clients can overcome barriers to securing and maintaining suitable, permanent housing. >>



1. The photos in the HHP section of the report illustrate the work of Oak's partners. They are working to help people who have experienced homelessness improve their health, find work and keep their homes.

Healthcare sessions provide opportunities to recognise the signs that someone is struggling to keep their home or that the condition of their housing is causing ill-health.

Chronically homeless people are among the highest users of medical care in the United States.

Permanent supported housing can dramatically reduce their need for healthcare.

»» “The key to success has been educating medical providers about all of the challenges that their patients, particularly their low-income patients, face in their daily lives,” said Eileen O’Brien from the Boston Medical Center. “We help them understand how a lack of housing or very unstable housing impacts on their patients, and can undermine their health no matter how many health interventions the providers attempt. They appreciate the programme because it makes them better, more effective practitioners, and they see that their patients have better results. They are now starting to embrace the approach on a policy level as well.”

Does the US Affordable Care Act provide an opportunity for better links between housing and health?

Longterm or “chronically” homeless people are among the highest users of medical care in the United States and are also some of the costliest patients. They often rely on expensive emergency room visits. Permanent supported housing which specifically targets chronically homeless people can both successfully house these individuals and dramatically reduce their need for healthcare. The Affordable Care Act broadens the remit of Medicaid by making it possible to integrate housing support and health services. However, the reality of this work is challenging.

The **Supportive Housing Network of New York (SHNNY)** works to ensure that there is an adequate supply of supportive housing in New York City. One of its key themes in the coming years will be supporting its members to manage the implications of the Affordable Care Act.

“The Affordable Care Act opened the door for the possibility of Medicaid to pay for a portion of critical services in supportive housing,” said Laura Mascuch from SHNNY. “This will help keep the most vulnerable people in New York housed. SHNNY is working to ensure that this potentially positive resource

does not undermine the integrity of the supportive housing model, but instead adds to our community’s ability to offer person-centred housing to New York’s most vulnerable homeless people.”

The **Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance (MHSA)** works to secure Medicaid funding to cover the costs of health services for people living in supportive housing in Massachusetts.

“The greatest challenge in developing permanent supportive housing is the need to stress its importance in the healthcare of long-term disabled homeless persons without totally medicalising the issue of homelessness,” said Joe Finn from MHSA. “The way to overcome this is by highlighting as key outcomes the importance of social issues, housing, nutrition, education and income.”

The **Center for Urban Community Services (CUCS)** provides supportive housing in New York City. The Janian Medical Center was established by CUCS in 2011 to carry out psychiatric outreach work and expand CUCS’s services to include primary medical services for homeless people.

“Their bedside manner is beautiful. If you forget, they call your apartment, they make sure you remember... It’s beautiful. I don’t feel like my doctor is here just for the pay-cheque. It’s like she’s here for the people.”

- Moira,
CUCS client

Early evidence from the initiative shows that integrating healthcare and supportive housing leads to reduced hospital admissions, improved physical and mental health and fewer visits to the hospital emergency room.

“The Affordable Care Act has introduced a storm of philosophical and programmatic changes in a very condensed timeframe,” said Tony Hannigan from CUCS. “Our biggest challenge is to fund operations while protecting person-centred care in a way that works for both clients and clinicians.”



© Janian Medical Center for Urban Community Services



© Reach the Charity

Can hospitals improve their response to homeless people?

Many homeless people rely on hospitals for medical care, frequently using accident and emergency rooms to gain access to immediate treatment. Vulnerable people easily fall between the gaps in the labyrinth of hospital structures, and sometimes receive fragmented, uncoordinated care. In addition, homelessness makes ongoing care more difficult.

Read on to find out how Oak's partners have been successful in improving the hospital environment for homeless people.

Providence Row tackles the root causes of homelessness in East London to help people get off and stay off the streets.

It believes that working with people to build skills and confidence is the key to success. It does this through trainee schemes, language classes and employment support. Providence Row also provides support for mental health and addiction issues to help people rejoin the community.

In addition, Providence Row works to reach patients before they leave hospital through its health and wellbeing programme. It secures housing and coordinates support services in the community for those without homes. In this way patients can continue to access mainstream health and wellbeing services once they leave hospital.

"The health and wellbeing programme is such a powerful preventative measure," said Pam Orchard from Providence Row. "We have found a joint working arrangement with the Royal London Hospital that works well. We will make the service available to more people and work to ensure financial sustainability in a time of public sector austerity."

Pathway is a model of integrated healthcare for single homeless people and rough sleepers that puts the patient at the centre of healthcare practices. The Pathway model was piloted at University College Hospital, London and is now internationally recognised and in place in ten hospitals across the UK.

The Pathway team visits homeless patients in hospitals and then works with ward staff and other clinicians to care for them. The team provides expert support and advice to clinical colleagues on how to treat patients with alcohol or drugs issues, as well as those with mental health problems. It also engages with the patients, helps them to participate more fully in decision-making about their care, and brings focused but sensitive attention to planning for their discharge.

"We have succeeded for several reasons," said Alex Bax from Pathway. "Firstly, we have always tried to work within and alongside the institutions and the individuals of the National Health Service and to be endlessly humble. We focus always on how to improve things for homeless patients practically." >>

Homeless people frequently use accident and emergency rooms in hospitals to gain access to treatment.



Trident Reach provides a 'street-to-hospital-to-home' service for people in the UK. It secures housing for patients before they are discharged from hospital.



» Trident Reach provides a 'street-to-hospital-to-home' service for people living in the West Midlands in the United Kingdom. It secures appropriate housing and support for patients before they are discharged from hospital, ensures support for the patient after they leave and provides support and connections within the community. This partnership between NGOs, healthcare providers and housing authorities aims to end the revolving door of homeless people being repeatedly re-admitted to hospital.

"Frontline clinical teams appreciate and value the expert guidance and rapid response that the initiative offers," said Amy Hewett from Trident Reach. "Each individual and organisation involved has a clear understanding and knowledge of what success looks like for both the patient and strategically."

Tribute to Professor Aidan Halligan

The Pathway model was the vision of Professor Aidan Halligan, who passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in April 2015. "Aidan's contribution was vital," said Alex Bax. "Without his raw energy, drive and compassion, Pathway would not have come into existence and our approach would never have spread as it has across the UK and now to other countries. His sudden death robbed Pathway of its founder, but has left us with a legacy of moral courage."

"Levels of homelessness and the resulting health harms are overwhelmingly a consequence of wider economic and social circumstances, and of the political choices we make as a society. In healthcare you get your authority from how much you care. I hope that Pathway has given more people more permission to care, and from that caring position, to change the lives of the most excluded."

- Professor Aidan Halligan



Grants



Economic self-sufficiency

Center for Responsible Lending (CRL)

USD 1,000,000 (48 months)
To provide core funding to the CRL to help it eliminate abusive financial practices that disproportionately impact low- and moderate- income families and people of colour in the United States.

Community Housing Cymru (CHC)

USD 182,934 (24 months)
To enable CHC to develop a new, self-sustaining enterprise that delivers financial advice and products and to develop its "Your Benefits are Changing" campaign in the UK.

Edinburgh Cyrenians

USD 80,000 (18 months)
To evaluate current practice of the Good Food programme, a social enterprise with a mission to bring good food and healthy lifestyles to people who are experiencing disadvantage, isolation, poverty and homelessness.

Jericho Foundation

USD 476,323 (36 months)
To enable the Jericho Foundation, based in Birmingham in the United Kingdom, to become sustainable and increase training and employment opportunities for its clients.

Moneyline

USD 494,080 (36 months)
To increase the availability of affordable lending and credit to low-income households in Stoke, in the United Kingdom, by supporting Moneyline to expand its services.

Neighborhood Trust Financial Partners

USD 480,000 (36 months)
To provide financial support to low-income people in the US by reaching out to employers.

Second Step

USD 629,395 (48 months)
To develop peer mentoring support in Bristol, the UK, in order to reduce and prevent homelessness and to enable people with histories of homelessness to lead more independent, fulfilling lives.

Increasing the supply of low-income housing

Boston Foundation Inc.

USD 25,000 (12 months)
To fund an award for the Home Funders Innovation Fund, which seeks new solutions to increase the supply of housing for low-income families in Boston.

Center for Architecture

USD 820,228 (36 months)
To improve the condition of thousands of privately-owned row-houses in Philadelphia.

Chartered Institute of Housing in Northern Ireland

USD 245,816 (36 months)
To support the private rented sector to provide higher living standards, by promoting professional standards in both the management of accommodation, and the delivery of services to tenants.

Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania (HAP)

USD 1,000,000 (60 months)
To provide core support to the HAP, a not-for-profit organisation that works to ensure that all those living in Pennsylvania, especially those living on low incomes, have access to safe, decent and affordable homes.

National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC)

USD 1,500,000 (60 months)
To provide core funding to NLIHC which works to achieve socially just public policy that assures people with the lowest incomes in the United States have affordable and decent homes.

New York Communities Organizing Fund Inc.

USD 750,000 (36 months)
To ensure that housing policies prioritise and deliver affordable housing for the most economically vulnerable households in New York City.

Homelessness prevention

Broad Street Ministry

USD 441,849 (48 months)
To provide and connect ex-offenders in Philadelphia with housing, support and public benefits and to help their reintegration back into the community.

Cardinal Hume Centre

USD 479,638 (36 months)
To improve the quality and effectiveness of immigration casework for homeless and vulnerably-housed migrants through partnerships with non-governmental organisations in London.

City Life/Vida Urbana

USD 289,613 (12 months)
To support the "No One Leaves" project in Boston, the US, run by City Life/Vida Urbana, a bilingual (Spanish/English) community organisation which fights for racial, social and economic justice and gender equality.

Common Ground Communities Inc. DBA Community Solutions

USD 400,000 (24 months)
To end veteran and chronic homelessness by working closely with 75 communities in the US.

Depaul UK

USD 896,510 (48 months)
To improve the life chances of homeless young people and to support their integration into communities.

Institute for Public Policy Research
USD 113,280 (12 months)

To build support for an improved tool which supports people seeking employment in the UK and develop a feasibility study for how the approach could be comprehensively piloted.

Merthyr and the Valleys Mind
USD 205,538 (24 months)

To test and evaluate the combination of mental health referrals and homelessness prevention work at the local authority level in Wales.

National Alliance to End Homelessness
USD 1,500,000 (60 months)

To provide core support to the National Alliance to End Homelessness to further its mission of preventing and ending homelessness in the United States.

National Network for Youth
USD 466,250 (36 months)

To develop the National Youth Advisory Council in the US and provide training to a larger number of young homeless people to become youth advisors.

Nurse Family Partnership
USD 311,828 (36 months)

To provide low-income mothers in Philadelphia in the United States with dedicated legal and advocacy services to improve their children's lives and their own.

Praxis Community Projects
USD 552,630 (60 months)

To develop a comprehensive approach to supporting homeless migrants in London by developing partnerships between the migrant and homelessness sectors.

Providence Row
USD 351,501 (36 months)

To improve health and housing outcomes for homeless patients in East London through a personalised health and wellbeing programme that prevents rough sleeping.

The Rock Trust
USD 268,358 (48 months)

To recruit a Development Coordinator to increase the Rock Trust's capacity to provide services in more parts of Scotland and to develop new initiatives.

The Welcome Organisation
USD 489,006 (60 months)

To prepare the Welcome Organisation in Belfast, Northern Ireland, to identify, develop and implement a succession strategy to prepare for the director's retirement.

University of Massachusetts Foundation
USD 493,256 (36 months)

To conduct research on cliff effects to inform the work of the On Solid Ground Coalition, a collaborative, cross policy and research action initiative led by UMASS Boston Center for Social Policy, CHAPA and Homes for Families.

Vicar's Relief Fund
USD 1,140,240 (36 months)

To enhance the impact and effectiveness of the St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity's Vicar's Relief Fund, which supports people at risk of being made homeless.

Women Acting In Today's Society (WAITS)
USD 248,000 (36 months)

To support women in the United Kingdom who are experiencing domestic abuse and are homeless to re-integrate into their communities, and to support WAITS to become sustainable.

Learning

Chartered Institute of Housing Cymru
USD 492,640 (60 months)

To help develop an interconnected, cross-sectoral housing system in Wales that brings together the government, local housing authorities, registered social landlords, tenant organisations, support providers and the private sector.

Clinks
USD 78,254 (12 months)

To explore the viability of the "Payment by Results" commissioning model to improve outcomes in a wide range of public services in the UK, by developing an interactive tool for commissioners and providers.

Crisis UK
USD 209,640 (36 months)

To identify and share best practice to inform further models for accessing, securing and maintaining Private Rented Sector accommodation for homeless and vulnerable people.

Henry Street Settlement
USD 100,000 (12 months)

To evaluate factors relating to longer-term housing and employment outcomes for families leaving Henry Street's shelter services in New York City.

Homeless Link
USD 338,090 (36 months)

To facilitate an annual transatlantic practice exchange between homelessness professionals in the US and the UK, with the aim of introducing new ways to tackle homelessness and developing future leaders in the sector.

Institute for Voluntary Action Research
USD 96,000 (12 months)

To improve evaluative practice in foundations through opportunities to share experience and refine thinking and practice.

Personal Finance Research Centre, University of Bristol
USD 155,173 (12 months)

To develop recommendations to policy-makers and industry regulators relating to the "Poverty Premium", which refers to how poor households pay more for essential goods and services.

Pine Street Inn
USD 100,000 (12 months)

To provide new ways out of shelters for mid- and short-term homeless guests in Boston, the US, especially those with a history of recidivism.

Other

Associação Fórum Suape Espaço Socioambiental
USD 239,397 (36 months)

To provide core support to Forum Suape - Social and Environmental Space, which advocates for environment and the interests of traditional communities affected by the Suape Industrial Port Complex (CIPS), a major industrial development in Brazil.

Acao Comunitaria Caranguejo Uca
USD 97,560 (36 months)

To promote a green, inclusive and sustainable economy via digital media in Ilha de Deus in Recife, Brazil.

Lift
USD 874,190 (48 months)

To develop the "Harlesden Working Together" project in London, the UK and to generate activities that address social exclusion in practical and strategic ways.

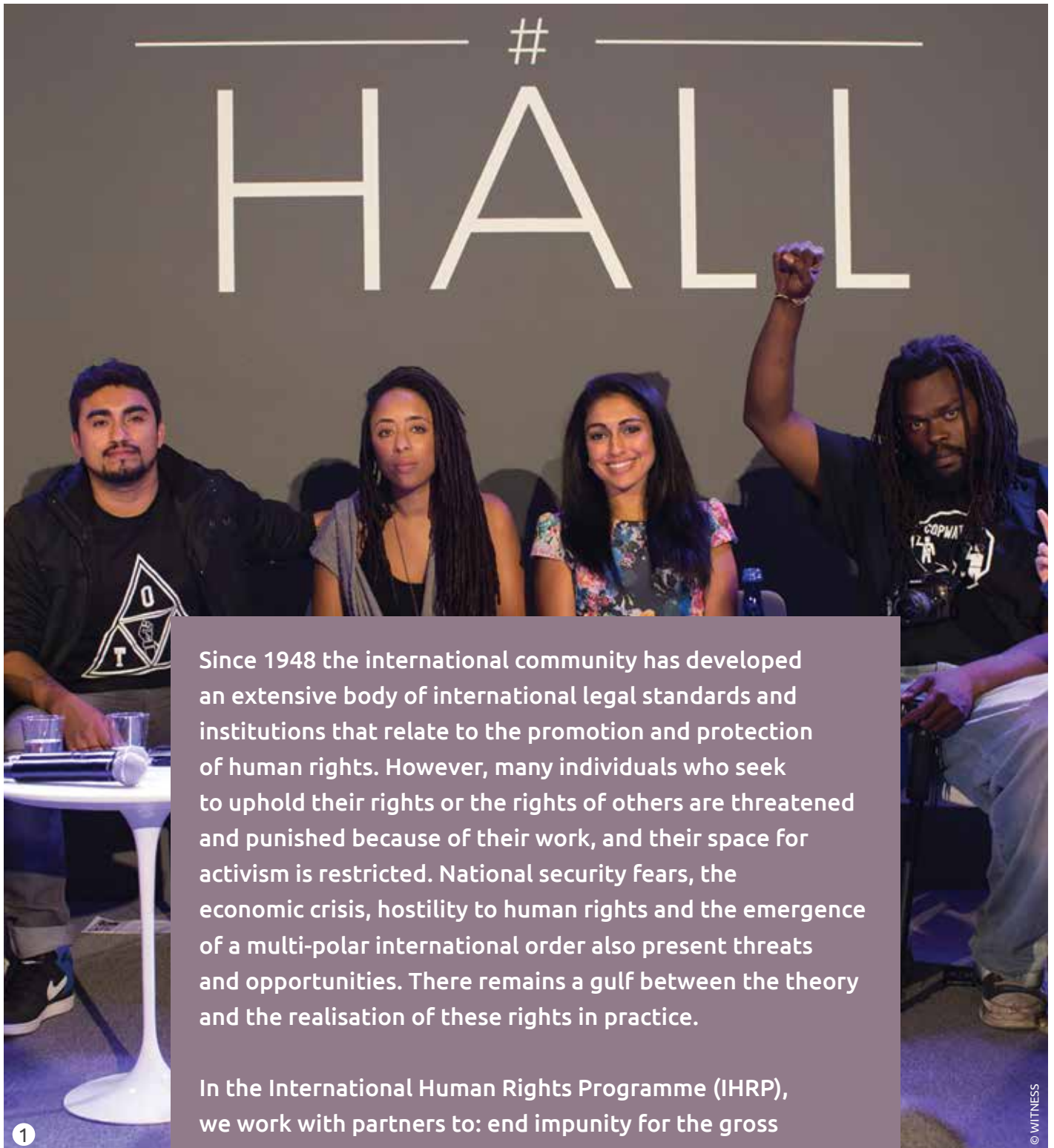
One25
USD 800,000 (60 months)

To provide core support to One25, which works to build supportive relationships with Bristol's street sex-workers through a person-centred approach.



This is a list of our grants approved in 2015. For a comprehensive list and full descriptions, please visit our grant database at www.oakfnd.org/grants

International Human Rights



Since 1948 the international community has developed an extensive body of international legal standards and institutions that relate to the promotion and protection of human rights. However, many individuals who seek to uphold their rights or the rights of others are threatened and punished because of their work, and their space for activism is restricted. National security fears, the economic crisis, hostility to human rights and the emergence of a multi-polar international order also present threats and opportunities. There remains a gulf between the theory and the realisation of these rights in practice.

In the International Human Rights Programme (IHRP), we work with partners to: end impunity for the gross violations of human rights; uphold prohibitions on arbitrary detention and torture; protect human rights defenders at risk; and multiply and amplify influential voices on IHRP global priorities.



Reflections

The operating environment for many International Human Rights Programme grantees deteriorated in the course of 2015. Around the world, in authoritarian as well as democratic states, governments imposed a range of measures to restrict civil society and intensify pressure on civil human rights defenders. Concerns over immigration gave rise to calls for the adoption of increasingly punitive approaches to regulate the movement of people.

Alongside these developments, advances in technology presented both threats and opportunities for the human rights movement. Within this challenging context there were some notable achievements. These include the following:

Countering impunity, securing redress: the trial of former Chadian President Hissène Habré, accused of multiple gross abuses in the 1980s, began in September 2015. This is the first trial of a former African head of state by another African state and constitutes a milestone in international justice. It is also a testament to the perseverance of victims and their allies in the human rights community (including multiple Oak grantees) in a 25-year long battle for justice and accountability.

To build on the momentum, Oak invested in improving the means by which litigators seek to hold perpetrators of gross abuses to account. This includes a range of innovative evidence-collection tools.

Combating torture: following a long delay, and thanks to the support of multiple Oak grantees, the report of the

US Senate Intelligence Committee on the CIA's Detention and Interrogation Program was released. The report confirmed that torture had been employed systematically during Bush-era interrogations of terror suspects in a network of secret interrogation facilities known as 'black sites', and that robust measures were needed to prevent its recurrence. We maintained our longstanding commitment to assisting victims of torture by supporting rehabilitation centres in low- and middle-income countries. We also extended our efforts to test innovative models of care for people who have suffered from trauma and to evaluate existing therapeutic approaches.

Detention and due process: grantees responded creatively to the migration crises in Europe and along the US-Mexican border throughout 2015. Grantees sought to: protect the most vulnerable, including women and children; advocate for the principles of lawful, time-bound detention; ensure that humane conditions were being respected; and encourage appropriate alternatives to detention. In 2015 immigration detention became an increasingly significant priority for Oak.



1. WITNESS activists from Brazil and the US share their experiences documenting police violence.
2. TacticalTech trains human rights defenders to use technology so that their security is not put at risk.

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grants were made by the International Human Rights Programme in 2015, totalling USD 23.60 million.



Find out more at www.oakfnd.org/humanrights

security in-a-box

tools and tactics for your digital security

Technology and human rights

The way that people communicate and access information has been transformed over the last half-century. These technological advances have empowered those defending human rights.

However, they have also aided their adversaries, and human rights defenders are increasingly vulnerable to online surveillance and hacking, as governments and private actors restrict access to certain information.

“In international law, access to information and free expression have found tremendous accelerators in the internet and other forms of digital communication. At the same time, efforts to control speech and information are also accelerating.”

- Carole Bogart,
Human Rights Watch

Protecting human rights defenders and enabling their work, including through harnessing the benefits of modern technology, are some of Oak's key priorities. Oak developed a cluster of grants in 2015 to both realise the potential of technology and also to mitigate attendant risks. Grants covered three main areas:

- digital security;
- developing anti-impunity tools and technologies; and
- technological capacity-building.

Read on to find out more!

Digital security

Since the Bahraini uprising in 2011, local authorities have been using excessive force and unlawful detention to muzzle pro-democracy activists. Many activists have had to flee the country. In exile and in relative safety, they continue their work to bring about democratic reform.

However, they remain at risk from digital attack – since the uprising, at least 77 Bahraini human rights defenders have had their computers and mobile devices hacked, presumably by a hostile government. Hackers gained access to information saved on the activists' computers' hard drives, monitored Skype calls, chats, file transfers and videos, read emails and recorded conversations.

Unfortunately, incidents like these are becoming increasingly commonplace, threatening both the work and lives of human rights defenders. There is a lack of research and tools to help groups quantify and mitigate such risks. To fill that gap, Oak made a grant to **Citizen Lab**, a research group at the Munk School of Global Affairs in the University of Toronto. Citizen Lab is working to detect covert hacking and surveillance tools that are directed against human rights groups.

It is thanks to its work that the breach of the Bahraini activists' computer systems was identified. Citizen Lab published a report that linked this attack (and others) to a UK-based commercial company which sells Trojan spyware to governments, ostensibly in the fight against organised crime. However in some countries, such tools have been used in ways other than what they were intended for: to surveil and endanger human rights defenders.

Citizen Lab's analysis helped strengthen campaigns and litigation against companies that have sold surveillance systems to countries that have used the tools in this way. In addition, **Privacy International's** campaign resulted in controls on the export of such technologies from the UK.

Citizen Lab forms part of a new cohort of grantees, which – though not all focused on security – should improve security practices among non-governmental organisations. Grantees including **Tactical Technology Collective** work with activists to ensure that online activities and data storage do not place organisations or the victims they work with, at risk.

"Through your computer, mobile phone and other digital devices, you leave behind hundreds of digital traces every day," said Stephanie Hankey, Co-Founder of Tactical Technology Collective. "These bits of information are created, collected and stored. Then they can be put together to create stories about you or profiles of you. While these can give others a huge insight into your life, they can also give a totally wrong impression."

Through a range of resources, including its flagship *Security-in-a-Box* toolkit, Tactical Technology Collective provides group training to reduce the risk associated with these digital traces.

Developing anti-impunity tools

Documenting police brutality in Brazil

According to Amnesty International, the police in Brazil are estimated to be responsible for around 2,000 deaths every year.¹⁷ Many of these deaths are undocumented, and the families of the victims often never learn of what happened to their son or daughter. Oak grantee **WITNESS** has helped >>



Page 41. 3. In 2015 thousands of unaccompanied minors tried to cross the US/Mexico border.

Opposite: TacticalTech trains human rights defenders to use technology so that their security is not put at risk.

Since the 2011 uprising, at least

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Bahraini human rights defenders have had their computers and mobile devices hacked.



WITNESS supports civilian activists and investigators who document disappearances and police brutality in Brazilian cities.

» train activists to use mobile video devices to capture human rights violations when they occur. It has also empowered communities to stand up against police brutality.

“With the rise in the use of mobile phones and social media, there is an increasing flood of videos that human rights groups hope will support criminal investigations and proceedings,” said Executive Director of WITNESS, Yvette Alberdingk Thijm.

“We believe that if we train activists and citizens to capture better quality videos, international human rights and criminal justice stakeholders will be able to use them to better effect,” she said.

“What WITNESS does is create, support and sustain a global network of people who use video as their tool, as their weapon. This network reminds us that we are not a single voice; we are not alone.”

- Esra'a Al Shafei, Bahraini activist

WITNESS is one of several of Oak grantees that work with activists to develop and disseminate new technologies to capture evidence of crimes. New kinds of evidence, like video and satellite imagery, are becoming increasingly important in the investigation and prosecution of international crimes.

A recent example is the case of the assassination of Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri – prosecution rested almost exclusively on the tracking of the defendants’ cell phones.

Gathering witness statements through technology

Unlocking the wealth of potential evidence gathered by witnesses through statements – in person, on social media and through mobile phone recordings; and corroborating this evidence to make it admissible in court, is a challenge. In 2015 Oak supported three interventions to make this happen:

- **Carnegie Mellon University’s Human Rights Center** is pioneering the development of advanced computing methods and tools to analyse large volumes of photographic and video evidence;
- **UC Berkley’s Human Rights Center** works with the International Criminal Court, investigators and technology companies to ensure the use of evidence gathered through technological means in proceedings; and
- **SITU Research** applies spatial analysis and visualisation techniques to present evidence more effectively.

In a separate but related grant, the **American Association for the Advancement of Science** deployed geospatial technology to document international crimes from space.



Capacity building

Maintaining a well-functioning and up-to-date IT system is critical to the effectiveness of any organisation. In 2015 Oak invested in a range of interventions to build grantees’ technological capacity. This included an extensive programme of training built on face-to-face, individualised, user-led approaches. Oak also supported sustainable IT programmes that were integrated into the regular day-to-day operations of the grantees.

The work of **HURIDOCS** and **Beneficient Technology’s Human Rights Programme (Benetech)** was critical to these efforts. HURIDOCS worked closely with organisations to examine their information and management systems over a number of years.

Benetech has developed a secure, encrypted database which permits human rights groups working in high-threat situations to store information safely. It has accompanied grantees to the field to train staff on how to operate and customise this valuable tool.

Looking to the future

In the context of an increasingly difficult environment for activists and human rights defenders around the world, the International Human Rights Programme will continue its work. This includes protecting the fundamental rights of the individual, supporting those who champion that struggle and ensuring that perpetrators of gross abuses are held to account.

Benetech has developed a secure, encrypted database which permits human rights groups working in high-threat situations to safely store information.



1. Staff at work at Citizen Lab, an organisation that researches, monitors and analyses the exercise of political power in cyberspace.
2. WITNESS builds the capacity of human rights activists to expose human rights abuses through the use of video.
3. TacticalTech trains human rights defenders to use technology so that their security is not put at risk.
4. WITNESS activists discuss exposing human rights abuses through the use of video.
5. page 47.1: A snapshot of TacticalTech’s Visualising Information for Advocacy guide in Arabic, a book about how advocates and activists use visual elements in their campaigns.

Grants

Ending impunity for gross human rights violations

Abdorrahman Boroumand Foundation **USD 380,000 (18 months)**

To preserve memory and to support efforts towards truth, justice and accountability for gross violations of human rights in Iran by maintaining an online memorial to victims of persecution and political violence.

American Association for the Advancement of Science

USD 400,010 (24 months)

To research and develop innovative, scientifically rigorous applications of geospatial technologies that advance documentation capabilities across the fields of human rights, humanitarian response, cultural heritage, environmental justice and human security.

Carnegie Mellon University

USD 200,000 (24 months)

To develop and apply scientific methods for collecting, analysing and communicating human rights information.

Center for Justice and Accountability

USD 1,100,000 (36 months)

To contribute to international efforts to end impunity for gross violations of human rights, through: investigations; civil and criminal litigation; denying safe havens for perpetrators; providing redress for victims; and supporting transitional justice efforts around the world.

Civitas Maxima

USD 208,333 (24 months)

To gather evidence on serious crimes in selected jurisdictions and pursue accountability on behalf of victims in national or international courts.

Community Partners **USD 650,000 (36 months)**

To develop and apply statistical methods to patterns of massive human rights violations so that the human rights movement can make more accurate, scientifically quantitative arguments about these.

Fund For Global Human Rights

USD 2,199,750 (19 months)

To provide seven grants of 18 months duration to support work on various aspects of the International Human Rights Programme's ending impunity/ arbitrary detention portfolios.

International Center for Transitional Justice

USD 975,000 (36 months)

To help societies in transition from political repression and conflict find the truth behind mass atrocities, communicate this to wider society, and support efforts to seek accountability for these as well as reparations for the victims.

International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

USD 913,500 (36 months)

To assist FIDH member organisations in documenting international crimes and in engaging in strategic and innovative litigation addressing such crimes.

International Memorial

USD 490,000 (24 months)

To improve data management of International Memorial's existing database comprising 2.6 million victims of Soviet terror.

Physicians for Human Rights

USD 1,500,000 (37 months)

To use medicine and science to document and call attention to severe human rights violations.

Public Interest Advocacy Centre Ltd

USD 249,349 (24 months)

To collect, analyse and preserve evidence of serious alleged violations of international law.

Rights Watch (UK) **USD 248,000 (12 months)**

To draw on the lessons of Northern Ireland to promote, protect and monitor human rights, especially in the context of UK engagement in conflict and counter terrorism measures.

SITU Studio

USD 100,000 (24 months)

To help human rights organisations present their evidence more persuasively and effectively through the application of spatial analysis and visualisation.

Tides Center

USD 50,000 (12 months)

To support the International Corporate Accountability Roundtable's efforts to ensure remedial avenues for corporate accountability are promoted, strengthened and extended.

TRIAL

(Track Impunity Always)

USD 244,792 (24 months)

To challenge the impunity of individuals and corporate actors involved in gross human rights violations.

University of California Berkeley

USD 450,000 (36 months)

To support the Human Rights Center at UC Berkeley School of Law to conduct research on war crimes and other serious violations of international law in order to improve conditions for survivors and prevent future violence.

Freedom from arbitrary detention and torture

Conectas

USD 901,307 (36 months)

To provide core support to Conectas to pursue its mission of defending and promoting the realisation of human rights and contributing to the consolidation of the rule of law in the Global South.

Fair Trials International **USD 988,800 (36 months)**

To protect and promote the fundamental rights of people facing criminal charges around the world, with a particular focus on supporting Fair Trials' work in Europe and expanding its geographical reach.

Gabinete de Assessoria Juridica as Organizacoes Populares (GAJOP)

USD 205,984 (12 months)

To provide core support to GAJOP to improve criminal justice policy and monitor conditions of detention within Brazil's prisons.

Global Dialogue

USD 705,600 (36 months)

To provide sub-grants to two organisations, Detention Action and Medical Justice, working on immigration detention issues in the UK.

Global Detention Project (GDP)

USD 374,390 (18 months)

To support the institutional strengthening of the GDP, a Geneva-based research centre that investigates the use of immigration-related detention as a response to global migration.

Helen Bamber Foundation, The

USD 499,250 (36 months)

To assist in the delivery and promotion of a compassionate, holistic and effective response to survivors of torture and other human rights abuses.

Instituto Pro Bono

USD 69,000 (12 months)

To support the work of Instituto Pro Bono in the development of a pro bono legal sector in Brazil.

International Detention Coalition

USD 962,640 (36 months)

To support the International Detention Coalition's efforts to prevent and limit the use of detention as a tool of migration management affecting refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants.



International Legal Foundation
USD 1,050,000 (31 months)
 To support the operations of the New York headquarters of the International Legal Foundation in its efforts to increase awareness of the global crisis in indigent defence.

International Rehabilitation Council of Torture Victims
USD 693,000 (12 months)
 To strengthen the clinical and organisational capacity of torture rehabilitation centres worldwide through training, peer exchanges, knowledge dissemination and advocacy on the right to rehabilitation.

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
USD 100,000 (6 months)
 To demonstrate the effectiveness of community-based case management models as an alternative to the detention of families facing immigration proceedings in the United States.

National Law University
USD 249,603 (24 months)
 To support the efforts of the Centre on the Death Penalty to promote greater awareness of the application of the death penalty in India.

Network of European Foundations
USD 1,071,000 (36 months)
 To enable the European Programme for Integration and Migration to support and strengthen civil society organisations active on migration and integration issues at the European level.

United Nations Refugee Agency
USD 86,600 (9 months)
 To support the second Global Roundtable on Alternatives to Detention convened by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in conjunction with the International Detention Coalition and other partners.

Supporting and protecting human rights defenders

Awara
USD 84,420 (12 months)
 To provide approximately ten financial audits of International Human Rights Programme grantees according to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles standards.

Beneficient Technology Inc (Benetech Technology Serving Humanity)
USD 900,000 (36 months)
 To provide and support effective, secure information management and data collection technology for rights defenders, activists, journalists and researchers globally.

Civil Rights Defenders
USD 480,470 (24 months)
 To improve the physical and digital security of LGBT human rights activists in northwest Russia and human rights activists in the North Caucasus; to provide emergency support for human rights defenders at grave risk; and to promote the international visibility of Russian human rights defenders.

EarthRights International
USD 390,000 (36 months)
 To work in partnership with communities and civil society organisations in Myanmar to promote and protect human and environmental rights in the country.

Fortify Rights
USD 230,000 (24 months)
 To prevent and remedy human rights violations in Myanmar and neighbouring states by investigating abuses, highlighting findings and providing technical support to strengthen individuals and communities advocating for change.

Global Dialogue
USD 249,100 (15 months)
 To provide three one-off grants to the Witness to Guantanamo, the International Civil Society Centre and the Movies that Matter Foundation.

HURIDOCs
USD 600,000 (36 months)
 To identify, develop and implement documentation management tools with a view to increasing organisational effectiveness of leading human rights NGOs in Eastern Europe and Eurasia, Middle East and North Africa, Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and North America.

The Engine Room
USD 239,668 (24 months)
 To support further organisational development of the Engine Room, which helps human rights activists integrate the use of data and technology safely and effectively into their work.

Broadening human rights constituencies

All Out (Purpose Action)
USD 500,000 (18 months)
 To build an online global movement to make political, legal and cultural interventions for equality of LGBT people.

Human Rights Watch
USD 134,735 (29 months)
 To provide fellowship opportunities in Russia for the country's next generation of human rights defenders.

People in Need
USD 784,350 (24 months)
 To strengthen civil society in Eastern Europe.

Proteus Fund - International Human Rights Funders Group (IHRFG)
USD 329,823 (36 months)
 To provide core support to the IHRFG, based in New York.



This is a list of our grants approved in 2015. For a comprehensive list and full descriptions, please visit our grant database at www.oakfnd.org/grants

Issues Affecting Women



In the Issues Affecting Women Programme, we seek to contribute to a world in which women are safe from violence and are free to exercise their full and equal human rights. We seek to build a strong and vibrant movement of women who are empowered individually and collectively to challenge patriarchal norms and tackle the root causes of inequality.

We support organisations that work to end patterns of violence and exploitation that disrupt women's lives by ensuring that rights-based laws and policies guarantee an environment free from violence, and by transforming harmful social norms. This is complemented by support to a range of comprehensive services that empower women to recover from the trauma of violence and rebuild their lives. We particularly recognise the vital importance of giving marginalised groups of women a chance to exercise their influence and have their voices heard.



Reflections

Ending violence against women in situations of crisis is one of four programme areas within the Issues Affecting Women Programme (IAWP). Under this programme, we provide flexible and responsive support in crisis zones where violence against women is systemic and prevents rights-based recovery. This includes in conflict, post-conflict, refugee and immigration settings, and following natural disasters.

We fund organisations that contribute to building strong women's rights movements and sustainable peace. Although this amounts to a small proportion of overall grant-making, ending violence against women in crisis situations remains a critical issue that merits attention. It is particularly urgent at this time, with militarism on the rise as well as widespread political, social and economic insecurity.

We focus particularly on the links between women, peace and security, as affirmed by Security Council Resolution 1325. This resolution championed the central role of women in all aspects of conflict prevention and resolution and in building sustainable peace.

This groundbreaking statement celebrates its 15th birthday this year, but much remains to be done to achieve its implementation on the ground, and women continue to be excluded from peace processes. Violence against women during conflict is still rife, and victims are often denied justice while perpetrators escape prosecution. Most importantly there is a clear gap between rhetoric and reality when it comes to political

commitment, in particular funding. The resources committed to implementing Resolution 1325 are very low in comparison to the amount invested in defence budgets every year.

Our partners, such as **Solidarité Féminine pour la Paix et le Développement Intégral**, **Fonds pour les Femmes Congolaise**, the **Great Lakes Women's Platform** and the **Women's International League for Peace and Freedom** have been actively and persistently pushing for the implementation of Resolution 1325.

Funding and political support towards this kind of work remains minimal. Local women's organisations on the frontlines of building peace and justice within their communities remain under-resourced. Women continue to be excluded from most peace processes, despite overwhelming evidence that when women are included, peace processes are far more effective and sustainable.



1. Just Associates builds women's collective power for justice in Malawi and other countries.
2. & 3. Nobel Peace Laureates, Leymah Gbowee, Mairead Maguire and Jody Williams, alongside WILPF Secretary General Madeleine Rees, attended WILPF's 2015 Conference in the Hague which brought together 1,000 women peacemakers from all over the world.

28

grants were made by the Issues Affecting Women Programme in 2015, totalling USD 12.20 million.



Find out more at www.oakfnd.org/women



In-depth country profile: building movements to address violence against women in Moldova

One day before Orthodox Christmas in January 2013 Olyessa came to Chisinau, the capital of Moldova, from a village in the north of the country, to escape the extreme violence she and her children faced in her family.

“My husband was a heavy drinker. He was abusing the children. Often he would put us to sleep outside... so he was treating us very badly. We were all damaged from my husband’s treatment of us.”

- Olyessa, Moldova

She contacted the **Women's Law Center** (WLC) for help. This not-for-profit organisation was established in 2009 to provide pro bono legal support to women victims of domestic violence and to advocate for better national laws on domestic violence. With the support of the WLC, Olyessa received protection, took her husband to court and eventually divorced him.

“While the court case was going on, Ms. Catalina, the lawyer from the WLC, used to call me just to see how I was and to see what I needed,” said Olyessa. “She helped me tremendously. Last winter I told her I had no food, no firewood, and we were just about to have our electricity cut off. So she got in touch with some other centres in the area ... who then came bringing me food like potatoes, onions and flour. The WLC also paid for my electricity and donated a stove so that

I could cook for my four children. I also received psychological care and so did my children, which was very important.”

In 2007 the registered daily income of 80 per cent of the population of Moldova was below one US dollar per day.¹⁸ Although its economic situation has improved in recent years, Moldova remains one of the poorest countries in eastern Europe, with a high level of migration and great dependence on remittances. The root of this poverty stems from Moldova’s break with the former Soviet Union, and today is fuelled by high levels of unemployment, inadequate public services, lack of parental care and discrimination against women.

“Many women face great challenges that include legal challenges,” said Angelina Zaporozhan-Pirgari, Chairwoman of the WLC. “They do not know where to go for help – the WLC fills that need by ensuring access to justice for women victims of domestic violence. Women desperately need protection, a safe place to go and a professional to guide them through the process, to tell them what their rights are and what they can claim in the court and how to protect themselves.”

With the support of the WLC, improved domestic violence laws and social services, women in Moldova are now finding ways to escape terrible situations. “I was never alone in the courts, the lawyer was always there beside me,” said Olyessa. “And now, it has brought me peace. I’m finally happy. I want to thank everyone who has helped me and my children. It has meant so much.”

Olyessa is just one example of many women who experience domestic violence in Moldova. Recent global figures estimate that 35 per cent of women worldwide have experienced either intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime.¹⁹ In Moldova, this estimate is nearly double – according to a 2011 study, some 60 per cent of women have experienced violence by a spouse or partner.²⁰

Unsafe migration and trafficking

Moldovans have been moving overseas in recent years, looking for better living and employment opportunities. Many of them, women in particular, are vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. They can easily become victims of trafficking.

The not-for-profit organisation La Strada set up services and a national helpline (Women’s Trust Line) in 2001 to prevent human trafficking and to help victims reintegrate into society. It is open for 12 hours every day, and each year it receives hundreds of calls from domestic violence victims. In 2008 a La Strada study²¹ revealed that the majority of trafficked victims from Moldova are women who come from the countryside and have generally received a low level of education. The study confirmed that the women’s relationships with their families, both husbands and parents, play an important role in their vulnerability to trafficking. Of the women and children who received support from La Strada, some 80 per cent had suffered domestic violence prior to being trafficked.

Therefore, psychological and physical violence in families is a strong “push” factor influencing women’s high risk decisions to leave the country in search of a safer environment and a better life elsewhere. Traumatic experiences and desperate circumstances make these women and children ill prepared to recognise and face abusive situations and they can become easy prey for traffickers. In 2009 these conclusions pushed La Strada and other practitioners in Moldova to extend their trafficking prevention efforts to tackle domestic violence as one of the root causes of trafficking.

In Moldova, some

60%

of women have experienced intimate partner violence.





Since 2011, Oak has provided

USD 2.2

million to combat domestic violence in Moldova.

Addressing domestic violence

Since 2011 Oak has provided nine grants for a total of USD 2.2 million to organisations and networks improving services and legislation to help women victims of domestic violence in Moldova. Together, they have been working to: advocate for the adoption, implementation and enforcement of domestic violence legislation; meet the needs of victims of violence through services that are coordinated and comprehensive; and promote the agency and self-representation of survivors within a rights-based framework.

Moldova adopted a domestic violence law in 2007 called the Law on Preventing and Combating Family Violence. The law defined, for the first time, domestic violence and called for protection orders for women victims of domestic violence. However, due to the lack of specific directives on protection orders, the law was rarely implemented in the years that followed. "Initially no one was trying to combat this problem and politicians were even denying or rejecting that the problem existed," said Valentina Buliga, Former Minister for Social, Labour and Family Protection of the Republic of Moldova.

The law was amended in 2010 to broaden victims' rights to protection and services. In addition, a new provision in the criminal code that criminalises domestic violence was adopted.

“Now, Ministers of Parliament, including the Prime Minister of Moldova, speak out openly about domestic violence. Now we place great emphasis on strengthening the roles of all the people involved in dealing with this problem, from the police to ministers, central and local authorities.”

- Valentina Buliga,
Former Minister for Social,
Labour and Family Protection
of the Republic of Moldova

In partnership with the **Advocates for Human Rights**, the WLC has been working to implement the Republic of Moldova's Domestic Violence Legislation. In addition, the WLC has provided training to the police, judges, prosecutors and lawyers on effective response to cases of domestic violence. According to the WLC, so far more than 1,000 police officers throughout Moldova have received training, as well as 250 judges, prosecutors and lawyers. As a direct result, the number of protection orders issued has since increased. In 2011 there were only 23 and by 2014 this figure had grown to more than 900. This shows clearly how Moldova is working hard, both on the ground and at policy levels, to tackle domestic violence.



Casa Marioarei and improving rights-based services

According to a WAVE Survey, conducted by the WLC in 2014, there are 14 organisations in Moldova that work with women survivors of violence and their children. The total capacity for the entire country is 181 beds, which represents only half of the European standard. This is due to many factors, including a lack of specialised legal aid, intervention services and government funding. For example, two of the public institutions have experienced periods of non-operation for several months due to a lack of state funding.

Casa Marioarei (Casa M) is the first and only dedicated domestic violence women’s shelter in Moldova. Established in 2004, it has an accommodation capacity of 25 people. The shelter offers free temporary housing to women affected by domestic violence and their children, as well as social, medical and psychological assistance. In addition, Casa M gives free legal aid to victims of domestic violence through counselling and support in court.

Annually Casa M has the capacity to provide services to about 2,000 women, but up until a few years ago, operating at full capacity was impossible, due to lack of funding. The shelter struggled to stay open and cover its basic operating costs. “In 2010 we were considering closing the shelter. We had worked for two years without finances

– we tried everything to raise funds and only managed to raise enough to pay for our electricity, heat and water,” said Elena Burca, director of Casa M.

Since receiving funds from Oak Foundation, Casa M has improved its structure by hiring a team of specialists, nominating a new Board, recruiting volunteers and forming new partnerships with government and service providers. The staff have been trained by experts from Russia who helped the organisation develop rights-based standards and protocols for the services it provides, as well as strengthen its organisational structure. As a consequence, Casa M has been able to act as a resource for other non-governmental organisations and state actors, by organising training sessions and discussions. It has also facilitated workshops with social assistants, police and advocates from the local communities who are taking a stand against domestic violence. >>



1. Angelina Zaporozhan-Pirgari, Chairwoman of the Women’s Law Center at an open forum with politicians to address issues that women face in Moldova in spring 2015.
2. Valentina Buliga, Former Minister for Social, Labour and Family Protection of the Republic of Moldova.
3. Staff at Casa Marioarei (Casa M), the first domestic violence women’s shelter in Moldova.
4. Translates from Romanian to “Life without violence”.

In Moldova, the Women’s Law Center provided training on how to respond to cases of domestic violence to more than

1,000

police officers and

250

judges, prosecutors and lawyers.



Since Moldova began working to strengthen the legal processes and frameworks surrounding domestic violence, more women have been actively seeking help.

» In addition, Casa M developed an internal data collection system to track and monitor its work and is able to demonstrate its achievements. “Our great success is that 62 per cent of the women and children who have come to our shelter have left and are now living a life without violence,” said Ms. Burca.

Building a strong coalition

In addition to helping individual organisations, Oak supported the creation of the National Coalition “Life Without Violence” in 2012. Led by Angelina Zaporozjan-Pirgari of the WLC, the coalition is made up of 17 members which work together to: advocate for stronger legislation; create service standards and improve services; build individual organisations’ capacity; and increase public awareness around domestic violence.

“The Coalition has enabled us to develop a platform for dialogue and learning. We received capacity-building support from organisations in Austria, Russia and the United States among others, showing us that we can make a difference when we work together and speak with one voice.”

- Angelina Zaporozjan-Pirgari
Women’s Law Center

The Coalition has already been successful in implementing changes in domestic violence laws. It helps raise the profile around the issue and advocates for state funding for organisations providing services to victims of domestic violence.

What’s next

Former Minister Valentina Buliga has said that Moldova is currently in the process of strengthening the legal processes and frameworks surrounding domestic violence. Key priorities for the coming years include improving current legislation by: introducing restraining orders (including against stalking); making it a criminal offence to violate protection measures; signing and ratifying the Istanbul Convention (a Council of Europe convention against domestic violence); increasing public funds for the extension of services and programmes for both victims and perpetrators of domestic violence; and setting up a special department to coordinate the implementation of public policy in preventing and combating domestic violence.

“We have the political will to continue reforms on this and we will work on this issue because we want to have a society without violence.”
- Liliana Palihovici
Liberal Democratic Party

According to Liliana Palihovici of the Liberal Democratic Party, the number of domestic violence cases has, in recent years, been increasing. This is because more people are talking about the issue and women are more actively seeking help to get out of domestic violence situations.

“There is so much that can be done and with the dedication and perseverance of the leaders in these organisations, I have no doubt that change will continue to happen,” said Florence Tercier, director of Oak’s Issues Affecting Women Programme. Oak will continue to support domestic violence organisations to improve the quality of services for victims and their access to justice, and to address the root causes of intra-familial violence in Moldova. This will be done by: investing in initiatives that create awareness

Building a strong coalition to help end domestic violence in Moldova

among women and girls of their rights; promoting a “positive masculinities” approach; and offering services to violent and abusive men who want to change their behaviour.

In addition, in partnership with a sociological institute, the WLC concluded a survey in Moldova to assess men’s and women’s attitudes and behaviour towards gender equality. The findings of the survey will help consolidate the efforts of Moldovan networks and organisations working on gender equality, domestic violence, child protection and youth. Oak is also supporting the development of the first and only centre for domestic violence aggressors situated in Drochia to build its expertise and deliver a dedicated counselling programme for men who want to take responsibility for their actions and change their abusive behaviour. This service will be connected to the criminal justice system and, over time, should expand nationally.

We asked Jette Parker why she chose to invest in Moldova. This is her response:

“I received a mail clipping from my friend Linda Carter on the trafficking of women in Moldova.²²

“I felt inspired by that article to help women in Moldova who have been trafficked. When Florence Tercier and her team looked deeper at the issue, I was pleased to see that we are helping women victims of domestic violence, one of the root causes of trafficking.

“I feel incredibly lucky that I am able to support women’s organisations around the world. When I read an article or hear about something such as trafficking, I have the privilege to do something to help and each year we are able to give more. The Issues Affecting Women Programme is very important to me.”



Interview with Jette Parker about the Issues Affecting Women Programme

When did you start the Issues Affecting Women Programme?

"I started the Issues Affecting Women's Programme at the very beginning when, as a family, we started the original programmes; however, I had been funding issues related to women before I established the programme itself. In Denmark, for example, I supported a project called Mother's Help that focused on young, single mothers. A social worker in Denmark, who spearheaded the project, found that many single mothers were falling through the cracks and didn't know where to go for help. Mother's Help created a space where single mothers could find a supportive network and access to public services. I still support Mother's Help and the staff continue to help many families in Denmark."

Why did you start the Issues Affecting Women Programme?

"After our initial projects in Denmark and on reading more about the issues affecting women around the world, I decided to form this programme to address more difficult questions and problems. It was the logical next step. It is difficult for single mothers, but it is even more difficult and important to help women who have been trafficked, exploited and abused. The more you learn, the more you realise how much help you can give people."

What do you like most about this work?

"I feel incredibly lucky that I am able to support women's organisations around the world. When I read an article or hear about something such as trafficking, I have the privilege to do something to help and each year we are able to give more. I would never be able to do anything without the staff in our programme and at the Foundation. I am inspired by their passion and dedication to improving the lives of people."

What do you think about the current programme?

"Florence Tercier and her team are good at finding projects around the world that provide important and caring services to victims of violence, while working towards social change, and eradicating violence and trafficking of women. We also support a number of projects through women's funds that have made a real difference to people as they are able to reach small, local groups. We started small with an idea to improve the lives of women and now we have a well established programme working on very important issues. The Issues Affecting Women's Programme is very important to me."

Is there a project that stands out for you?

"It is not always the projects that stand out for me – it is the people that I have met. The most recent person I met was Taiba Rahim. She is the President of Nai Qala Association, which works to advance education and health in remote and neglected regions of Afghanistan. She is truly inspirational. I also feel quite happy that I have been able to support the production of a few documentary films, photo exhibitions and artistic projects to call attention to the difficult issues that these projects address."

What do you envision for the future?

"It's hard to imagine in five to ten years where we will be, but when you have the right people, passion and energy, we can make a difference. I can see this in all of our programmes and with all of our staff – passion is what drives us and we are doing a tremendous job."



Jette Parker, lead Trustee of the Issues Affecting Women Programme

Grants



Aluna Acompañamiento Psicosocial A.C.

USD 150,000 (36 months)

To provide core support to Aluna, based in Mexico, to assist civil society organisations facing security challenges and threats.

Animus Association Foundation

USD 320,000 (36 months)

To continue efforts to combat domestic violence in Bulgaria by ensuring that the relevant local structures can implement the National Referral Mechanism and Minimum Standards for protecting women from domestic violence.

Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)

USD 800,000 (36 months)

To provide AWID with core support, enabling it to work more effectively with diverse partners, allies and its broader constituency.

CARE Deutschland – Luxemburg

USD 163,800 (24 months)

To improve living conditions and social inclusion of vulnerable women in Montenegro – who are vulnerable to trafficking because of their poor economic status – through economic empowerment.

Catapult

USD 850,000 (36 months)

To provide core support to Catapult to continue building an innovative digital funding platform to mobilise resources from the corporate sector and global citizens for women's and girls' rights and to build a long-term organisational sustainability model.

Centro Feminista de Estudos e Assessoria

USD 450,000 (36 months)

To mitigate violence against women's rights activists in Brazil by developing and promoting improved self-care and security strategies, as a response to rising levels of violence and intimidation against women's rights activists.

Common Threads

USD 150,000 (36 months)

To assist healing for women and girls who are victims of sexual violence during war, conflict, displacement and its aftermath through the Common Threads model, an integrative and sustainable recovery programme.

European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence (WWP)

USD 100,000 (13 months)

To support the WWP to consolidate as a new formal organisation, in order to develop a shared European standard of practice for working with perpetrators of domestic violence.

Focus on Labour Exploitation (FLEX)

USD 100,000 (12 months)

To provide a planning grant to FLEX, based in London, the UK, to support its sustainable growth as an organisation.

Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres

USD 600,000 (36 months)

To support the efforts of women human rights defenders in the Meso-american region, ensuring that they have a vehicle to address and reduce the violence they suffer.

Fonds pour les Femmes Congolaises

USD 150,000 (36 months)

To end impunity for crimes committed during the 18-year conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including crimes of sexual violence, by advocating for the establishment of a transitional justice system.

Foro Internacional de Mujeres Indigenas (FIMI)

USD 250,000 (36 months)

To provide support to FIMI's Indigenous Women's Fund, the first fund led for and by indigenous women around the world.

Girl Be Heard (GBH)

USD 204,683 (36 months)

To expand and amplify GBH's burgeoning youth-led feminist movement by creating theatrical performances inspired by real stories of young women and girls around the world.

Global Fund for Women

USD 250,000 (29 months)

To support the coordination of the Win Win Coalition (which includes women's funds, research organisations and communications specialists) and its efforts to reach and influence corporate actors.

Graduate Institute Geneva

USD 54,769 (12 months)

To establish a merit-based paid traineeship within Oak's Issues Affecting Women Programme.

Hispanics in Philanthropy

USD 98,700 (12 months)

To support the Issues Affecting Women Programme to refine its Mexico strategy, assist local grantees to ensure their compliance and support capacity-building needs and processes.

International Center for Research on Women

USD 365,000 (18 months)

To work with private sector companies to raise awareness, improve knowledge and enable them to take action towards improving the quantity and quality of their efforts to empower women and advance their economic status.

International Federation for Human Rights

USD 378,000 (36 months)

To strengthen the contribution of the International Criminal Court in achieving justice for victims of sexual violence and ending impunity for its perpetrators.



© Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action

International Women’s Health Coalition

USD 450,000 (36 months)
To advance the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and young people, particularly adolescent girls, in the Global South.

Just Associates (JASS)

USD 450,000 (36 months)
To provide core support to JASS, an international community of activists, scholars and popular educators grounded in local and national action in more than 27 countries, working to strengthen and leverage the voice, visibility and collective organising power of women to create a just world.

Las Hormigas

USD 150,000 (36 months)
To support Las Hormigas to provide psycho-educational and emotional support to vulnerable women, their children and their families in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

Mama Cash

USD 300,000 (36 months)
To support Red Umbrella Fund’s grant-making to build the capacity of self-led sex worker organisations to contribute to laws, policies and practices that end the criminalisation, exploitation and trafficking of sex workers.

Peacebuilding UK

USD 750,000 (36 months)
To empower vulnerable girls and young women in Chechnya through an extra-curricular course on life skills.

Semillas

USD 450,000 (36 months)
To provide core support to Semillas so that it continues to contribute to just and equitable social change from a gender perspective in Mexico.

TRAG Foundation

USD 3,401,037 (36 months)
To strengthen women’s movements and women’s civil society organisations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro through financial and institutional support and capacity building of IAWP grantees by Trag Foundation.

WAVE Network

USD 300,006 (24 months)
To provide advice, research and capacity building support to women’s organisations that provide services to women and children survivors of domestic violence in Eastern Europe.

WinVisible

USD 214,005 (36 months)
To provide core support to WinVisible to uphold the rights of disabled women in the UK to live independently and free from discrimination.

Women’s Law Center

USD 300,000 (36 months)
To improve the overall response to domestic violence in Moldova by strengthening a network of civil society organisations to enable improved coordination, increased capacities and collective advocacy.



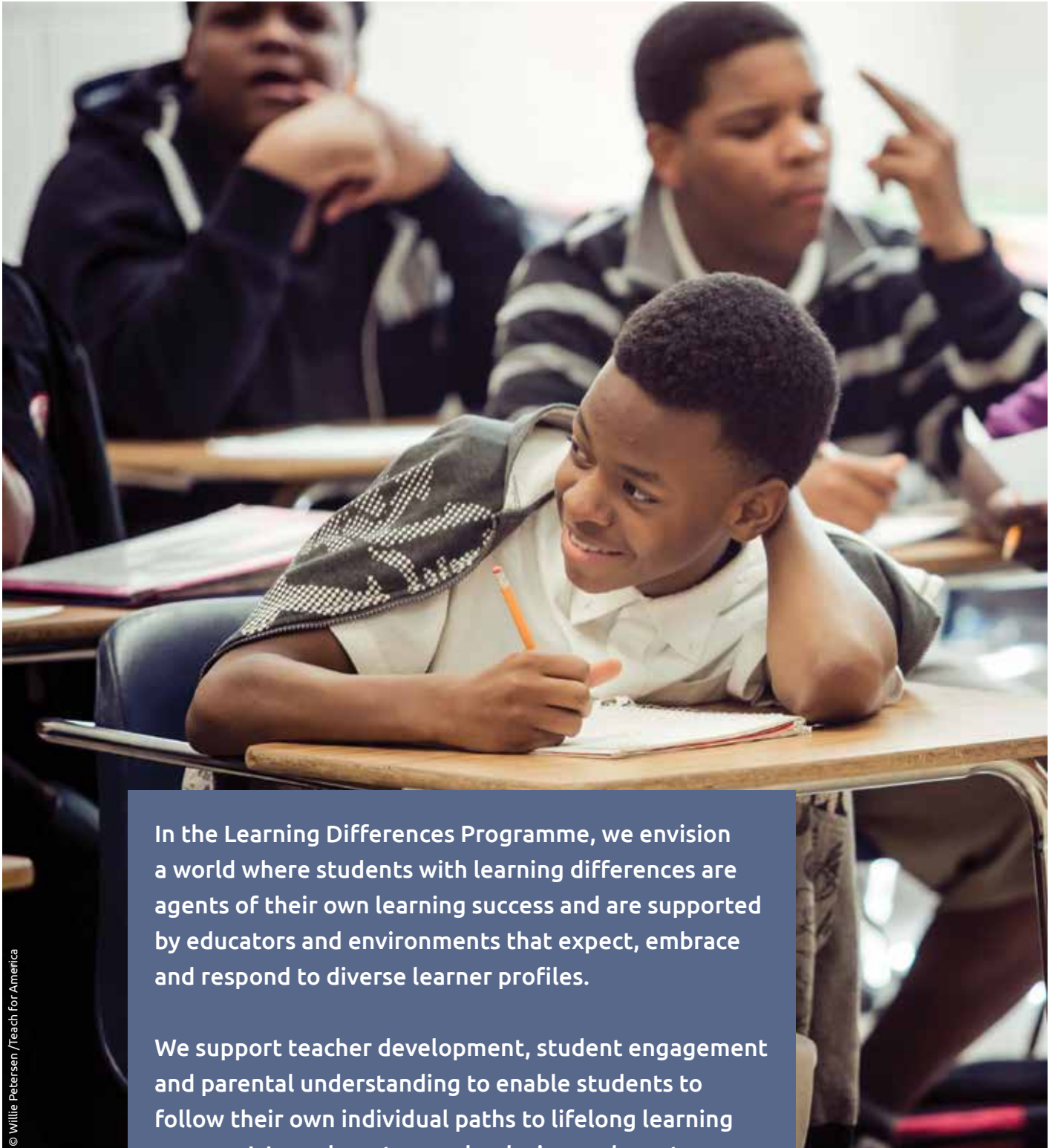
1. The Latin American Women’s Rights Service (LAWRS), based in the UK, raises awareness of the services it offers in London. LAWRS offers practical and legal advice, advocacy, information and counselling services to Latin American women.

2. Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action (CREA) is a feminist organisation based in New Delhi, India.



This is a list of our grants approved in 2015. For a comprehensive list and full descriptions, please visit our grant database at www.oakfnd.org/grants

Learning Differences



In the Learning Differences Programme, we envision a world where students with learning differences are agents of their own learning success and are supported by educators and environments that expect, embrace and respond to diverse learner profiles.

We support teacher development, student engagement and parental understanding to enable students to follow their own individual paths to lifelong learning success. We seek partners who design and create learning environments that are informed by student voices, neuroscience, personalised learning best practices and universal design concepts.



Reflections

In 2015 the Learning Differences Programme fine-tuned its strategy to better serve students with a wide range of learning profiles to achieve success in public schools and during the transition to, and through, college and other post-secondary opportunities. The revised strategy is based on a set of core beliefs:

1. **Each learner** possesses a diverse set of cognitive, social and emotional assets, knowledge, skills, interests and preferences. These characteristics interact to form a unique learner profile that changes over time.
2. **Students**, particularly those with learning differences, can achieve greater academic success when they understand how they learn and use that knowledge to plan for, and adapt to, learning environments.
3. **Educators** should be prepared for, and have the tools, to respond to diverse learner profiles in order to better serve students with learning differences in general education environments.
4. **Parents** should have the knowledge to understand their child's unique learner profile and the tools to advocate for him/her.
5. **Education systems** should define student success, using accountability frameworks with multiple indicators of academic performance as well as measures of social and emotional wellbeing, persistence and engagement.

We envision a world where students with learning differences are agents of their own learning success and are supported by educators and environments that expect, embrace and respond to diverse learner profiles. We support partners who:

1. **strengthen** teacher capacity;
2. **engage** students;
3. **enhance** parents' knowledge and support;
4. **personalise** learning environments;
5. **build** demand; and
6. **explore** learner profiles.

Through these strategies, we will continue our efforts to improve the lives of those with learning differences globally.



P 60 and 61: The photos on these pages of the report were provided by Teach for America (TFA), which recruits, develops and mobilises leaders for educational equality. Oak supports TFA to equip more than 50,000 leaders to teach and advocate for students with learning differences.

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grants were made by the Learning Differences Programme in 2015, totalling USD 9.90 million.



Find out more at
www.oakfnd.org/learning



Engaging the voices of young people with learning differences

“For the majority of my life, I hid my learning disability,” said Becca O’Hea, a college senior at East Carolina University (ECU). In middle and high school, Becca’s parents advocated for her so that she received special education services and other assistance at school. Despite this support, Becca did not often share her learning differences with others.

“Sometimes when I told people about my learning differences, they would look closely at me, as if trying to see my dyslexia in my face. Or, even more hurtfully, they would say, ‘but I thought you were smart.’”

– Becca O’Hea, college senior, East Carolina University

After Becca arrived at ECU, she met other college students who learned like her and realised they shared similar, sometimes humiliating, experiences as younger students. So, when an opportunity arose for her to mentor younger students, she took it. She joined Eye to Eye, a near-peer mentoring programme that connects middle school students who have learning differences with college students who also do. Through an arts-based curriculum and based on their own personal experiences, the college students help the middle school children begin to understand themselves as learners and develop the confidence and language to talk to others about how they learn.

The experience was as transformational for Becca as it was for the children she mentored. “Being around kids who had the same learning differences as me really

gave me the confidence to speak up for myself, too. I couldn't give them advice and not take that advice myself," she said.

The Learning Differences Programme supports Eye to Eye because it engages young people to share their voices with others – including younger peers, families, educators, policy-makers and the broader culture. Oak Foundation values highly the inclusion of stakeholders in the work it supports. In the Learning Differences Programme, these stakeholders include not only teachers and parents, but more importantly, young people themselves who are experts on living with a learning difference.


Engaging young voices to provide feedback or in the design of a programme can expand people's understanding of learning differences and wipe out the stigma associated with them. Eye to Eye mentor Stephanie Whitham said "school hurt." She often felt that asking for the support she needed for her learning difference was a burden to teachers. One even said that she needed to earn it, as if she were a lazy student seeking an easy way out. These false perceptions led some of her teachers to say that she would never graduate from college. Thankfully, she had enough support from her family to encourage her to go to college and there she found Eye to Eye. "Through Eye to Eye, I learned to recognise the strengths I have as a learner," she said. This experience and the support from her Eye to Eye peers helped her to continue through college: she graduated from the University of San Francisco this year.

Eye to Eye sees its main goal as developing a cadre of young leaders who, by speaking out about their learning differences, will change classroom practices, policies and cultural perceptions. With Becca and Stephanie, Eye to Eye has achieved this goal. Both have gone on to share their experiences in meaningful ways – Becca through the STEPP programme at ECU and Stephanie through Roadtrip Nation. Oak supported both these organisations in 2015 – read on to find out more!

East Carolina University

The STEPP programme at ECU provides young adults who have identified learning disabilities with the support they need to access college. This helps them transition into and progress through college to graduation.

To ensure the programme serves its participants well, STEPP engages students to improve its programme and to share their stories across campus and beyond. Every STEPP participant provides feedback through surveys and interviews each year. Other opportunities to contribute students' voices include serving on committees and panels as well as planning events and blogging about experiences on the university's website. When asked which of these opportunities were most meaningful, the students found value in active engagement (e.g., planning an event), where they could see the real impact of their work on others. One student valued these opportunities to speak up and said "Any time I let my story be heard it may help inspire or guide someone who is stuck."

 "In STEPP, I met people with learning disabilities who had strong voices. Their friendship and confidence gave me the confidence to speak up, too."

– Becca O'Hea

In fact, Becca and her friends got so used to sharing their experiences that they arranged to speak with future teachers in the ECU school of education. Through their stories of being misunderstood or demeaned, as well as the transformative experience of having teachers who understood them, they hoped these educators would not develop negative mindsets about those who learn differently.

Speaking up gave Becca hope. "A lot of students with learning disabilities have had teachers who were not always open to hearing about learning differences: they often seemed defensive. >>>

20%

of students with learning differences leave school before graduating in the United States. But this number has dropped from

36%

in the last 10 years.



More than
25%



of students who have learning differences struggle with their transition into adulthood after secondary school, compared to only

12%
of their peers.

» So when I saw how open these future teachers were to hearing our stories, it was really inspiring. Hopefully they will remember what we shared when they have a student like me in their classroom," she said.

Becca's experience at STEPP has allowed her to grow more knowledgeable about the way she learns and to become more confident in sharing her story. "My learning disability has even shaped my career plans," she said, "I am going into school psychology, so I can help others who learn like me."

YouthBuild Inc.

YouthBuild Inc. is an international organisation that provides opportunities for young adults who are not connected to school or work to complete their education, gain the skills they need for employment and become leaders in their communities. A core piece of this process is helping these young people reclaim their voices.

"Many young leaders have said that they sometimes experience inauthentic efforts from organisations, schools, and adults who ask them to share their stories. Young leaders quickly and deeply recognize when their voices and opinions are truly heard," said Scott Emerick, Senior Vice President of Education, Career and Service Pathways at YouthBuild Inc.

“We have learned that we need to help these young adults realise that they are the ones who have changed their lives for the better – not YouthBuild or any other programme – and that this gives them the expertise to be an asset to their community or on a committee.”

– Scott Emerick,
YouthBuild

Lashon Amado, a Programme Associate, and a YouthBuild Inc. graduate, has led several youth leadership programmes at YouthBuild Inc. He agrees that youth should be authentically included in shaping programmes that serve them and advises organisations that are trying to engage youth voices to avoid just having them share their stories. "Adult allies need to help develop young leaders, so that they are even more prepared to engage fully in the process and to help them see that they are bringing more than just their story to the table," he says.

For instance, YouthBuild Inc. engages young adults' voices in a variety of ways to shape the organisation's programming and influence the broader youth development field. With Oak support, YouthBuild Inc. is refining its post-secondary and career guidance platform, called MyBestBets, to ensure that it works well for all learners. To this end, YouthBuild Inc., with its partner Jobs For the Future, is developing an advisory committee of young people with learning differences to provide user feedback and other input on the design and function of this important resource.



© RoadTrip Nation



© RoadTrip Nation

National Center for Learning Disabilities

Unfortunately, not all schools or organisations seek input from students who learn differently in the way that Eye to Eye, Project STEPP and YouthBuild do. Students with learning differences are often not asked directly for their insights or opinions and many programmes and resources are designed for them and not by or with them. This limits how effective these programmes can be in helping students with learning differences.

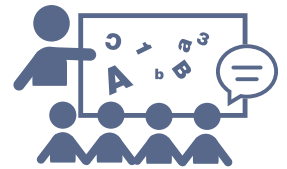
To begin to fill this gap, Oak supported the National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD) in 2013 to survey 1,200 young adults. More than two-thirds of respondents had identified or unidentified learning differences. This survey revealed insights into the impact of living with a learning difference not only on academic performance, but also in terms of social emotional development, self-confidence and connections to peers and community. For example, while some young adults who learn differently are thriving, many are struggling to continue their education, find a job or become more independent. The survey revealed that these struggling young adults did not usually have the three key experiences earlier in life that are drivers of a successful transition into adulthood. These drivers include having supportive parents who understand their learning differences, developing real connections to their peers and community, and finding ways to build self-confidence – through sports, mentoring or leadership, for example.

This year, NCLD made the data publicly available to inform programme design and resource development across the globe. NCLD is using this invaluable survey data to shape its own strategic planning process and programmes for young adults. This helps ensure that the young people who shared their voices through the survey make an impact.

Roadtrip Nation

Stephanie, the Eye to Eye mentor from San Francisco, was facing a big, blank space ahead of her as college graduation approached. She had many years of experience figuring out how to be a student, but now needed to learn how to be successful in a career. "It was a scary time," she said. The same week of her graduation, she was given the opportunity of a lifetime when she was chosen as one of three young adults to be on the Being Understood Roadtrip through the organisation Roadtrip Nation. Stephanie and two other young adults who have learning differences – Noah and Nicole – drove across the US to interview two dozen people with learning differences who have aligned their careers with their passions. Before the trip, Stephanie was worried that she might not be able to find a job she loved because she learned differently.

"Interviewing these people who found great careers helped me realise that it wasn't about me fitting into a career, but about finding a career that fits me," she said. >>



Programmes to help students with learning differences are more effective when students' opinions and insights are taken into account.



» Although Stephanie began the trip feeling like she could see the positive aspects of her learning differences, she still never felt fully comfortable with having a learning difference. “Twenty-two years was a long time not to feel okay about something that is an integral part of me,” she said. But the Being Understood Roadtrip allowed her to see the country, learn about herself and meet some inspiring people which “was one of those moments in life when you get the chance to feel like everything is going to be OK,” she said. “As a post-college graduation adult, that is a huge, huge blessing.”

“I knew from working with Eye to Eye that there were incredible people who learned like me. But I had no idea how many were so incredible because of their learning differences! I want more people to know about that!”

- Stephanie,
Eye to Eye mentor

Stephanie’s experience shows the transformative impact of community. Meeting others who had learning differences and who could share their advice helped her feel like she could move forward in life with confidence. Roadtrip Nation will share Stephanie, Noah and Nicole’s experiences by creating a documentary of the trip that will air on public television. In addition, the interviews will be included in an online archive for people seeking advice on how to turn their interests into careers. Stephanie is thrilled these will be broadly shared.

As these Oak-supported projects show, empowering youth and young adults to share their voices can improve programme design, strengthen education systems, change cultural perceptions of those who learn differently and ultimately, help young people change how they see themselves and interact with the world.

Grants



Branching Minds **USD 425,000 (24 months)**

To provide core support to Branching Minds, a start-up company in New York City, in developing a web-based tool designed to help teachers, parents and students understand, respect and support individual learners.

Center for Curriculum Redesign **USD 75,000 (12 months)**

To explore the feasibility of establishing and supporting an international consortium for the research and development of new assessments in skills, character and meta-cognitive competencies.

City Year **USD 792,720 (36 months)**

To establish a "School Design Division", through which City Year will develop, test, refine and disseminate new practices for use in schools supported by AmeriCorps members.

College Advising Corps (CAC) **USD 675,000 (36 months)**

To support CAC in guiding young people with learning differences in applying and enrolling in college.

Culwell Consulting Group LLC **USD 50,000 (5 months)**

To support Philanthropy Futures to accelerate the Learner GPS initiative so that students with a wide range of learning profiles achieve success within public primary schools.

Digital Promise Global **USD 1,500,065 (18 months)**

To develop guidelines and support cross-sector networks to understand and plan for all learners.

East Carolina University **USD 660,109 (60 months)**

To support students with learning disabilities to enroll in and graduate from East Carolina University.

Eye to Eye National Inc. **USD 1,000,000 (48 months)**

To provide core support to Eye to Eye, a US-based mentoring organisation that pairs young adults who have learning disabilities and/or attention deficit disorders with middle school students who also have these learning differences.

National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD) **USD 500,000 (12 months)**

To support NCLD's operation of Understood.org, a comprehensive online resource in the United States for parents of young people with learning differences.

New Schools for New Orleans **USD 620,000 (36 months)**

To support New Schools for New Orleans' investments in the design and launch of a Special Education Coordinator Fellowship and exploration of using learner profiles in personalised learning.

Roadtrip Nation **USD 300,000 (24 months)**

To send a group of students with learning and attention issues on a roadtrip to interview leaders from all backgrounds who have defined their own roads in life, despite having had a learning or attention issue.

Teach For All **USD 1,500,000 (36 months)**

To provide core support for Teach For All to increase and accelerate the impact of network organisations around the world in expanding educational opportunity for disadvantaged students.

Teach for America (TFA) **USD 225,000 (12 months)**

To support the planning process for TFA's diverse learners initiative, in order to strengthen its efforts to develop corps members into educators and advocates for those who learn differently.

Teach for America (TFA) **USD 450,000 (36 months)**

To provide core support funding to TFA's Eastern North Carolina region.

Universal Design for Learning Implementation and Research Network (UDL-IRN) **USD 100,000 (12 months)**

To support the UDL-IRN, based in Kansas, the United States, to build a sustainable organisation with a global network to disseminate models of best practices on the implementation of Universal Design for Learning principles in schools.

YouthBuild Inc. **USD 1,025,000 (36 months)**

To support YouthBuild on two related strategies to improve the educational and career outcomes for individuals with learning differences.

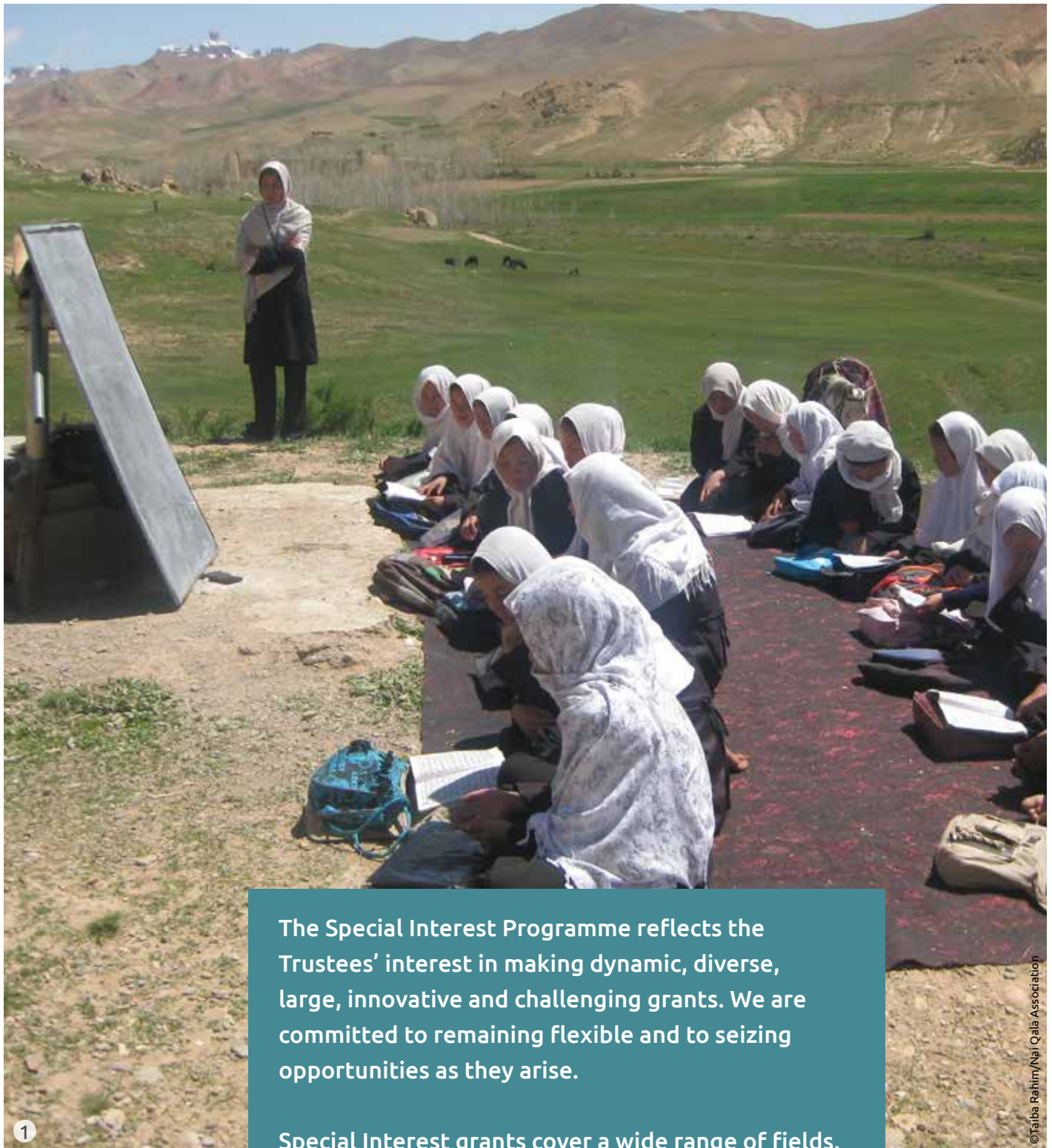


The photographs in the LDP section of this report have been provided by LDP grantees and illustrate diverse teaching practices and learning environments around the world.



This is a list of our grants approved in 2015. For a comprehensive list and full descriptions, please visit our grant database at www.oakfnd.org/grants

Special Interest



The Special Interest Programme reflects the Trustees' interest 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.

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©Taiba Rahim/Nai Qala Association



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Stories

The stories within this section represent the diverse range of grants within the Special Interest Programme.

Establishing sustainable schools in Afghanistan

Located in central Asia with Iran to the west and Pakistan to the east, Afghanistan is about the size of Texas. High mountains with treacherous peaks and dry deserts make up most of its landscape. Extreme weather means that the winters are very cold and the summers extremely hot.

Outside of the capital Kabul, it can take several days to get to some villages. In remote areas, basic infrastructure such as roads, schools and hospitals simply does not exist. It is against this backdrop that the children of Afghanistan try to get an education as best as they can.

Hundreds of schools are officially registered by the state in Afghanistan but have no proper building to house them. Children study under the shelter of torn tents in the ruins of what once was a school, or even in the open, unprotected from the harsh sun, the

“I quit school two years ago because the classroom had no roof. The condition of the school on the dusty ground under very hot sun, and also in the rain, became unbearable. So instead I helped my family by looking after the sheep and going to the mountain to collect firewood for cooking. It was very tough.”

- Shirinne, aged 15

rain and the wind. “In spite of these bad conditions, the children and their parents are strongly committed to education,” said Taiba Rahim, President of **Nai Qala Association**, which works to advance education and health in remote regions of Afghanistan. Nai Qala believes that improving access to education and health is crucial to the Afghan people’s future.

“As the regions we work in are very difficult to reach, it takes courage by all involved to believe that a school or clinic can actually be built in these regions,” said Taiba. “Transporting building materials is hugely challenging and the construction team and staff live for months under >>

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grants were made by the Special Interest Programme in 2015, totalling USD 66.89 million.



1. & 2. Children in remote parts of Afghanistan often attend school in makeshift tents or in the open air.

3. Oak Foundation supported Nai Qala to build a school (such as the one featured in this photo), in Zeera Gag village in the district of Panjab, Bamyán, Afghanistan in 2015.

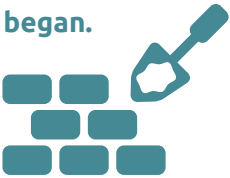


Find out more at www.oakfnd.org/specialInterest



© Taiba Rahim/Nai Qala Association

An additional 100 girls and boys registered for school in the village of Zeera Gag in Afghanistan when the construction of the school began.



» difficult conditions.” Nai Qala works with the communities to help them take ownership of the building projects. The men in the villages work to clear roads so that the trucks, motorbikes or horses and donkeys transporting the materials can access the villages.

In addition, both the men and women earn salaries to help in the construction of the school – the men for the building work and the women for preparing lunches and dinners for everyone involved. “This money helps lift the villagers out of poverty,” said Taiba. “With their joint salaries the families buy additional livestock which they can breed to sell. This helps them to work towards a sustainable, brighter economical future.”

“It is two months that I am working on the project to build the school,” said villager Hussain Ali. “In such a remote and isolated region it’s very challenging to have a decent income, but now I am earning money every day. I have managed to buy clothes for my children, and a year’s worth of food and grass for my sheep. I have never had such an income.”

Nai Qala was founded in 2007 and has successfully helped build six schools and one clinic in the Ghazni and Bamiyan provinces in central Afghanistan so far. Oak Foundation supported Nai Qala to construct several schools and one clinic, including a school called Zeera Gag in the district of Panjab, Bamiyan in 2015. This new school has eight classrooms and will house more than 520 students and 14 teachers. Fully-equipped, it runs off its own electricity supply and has a library of books and study equipment to prepare students for university.

“The implementation of the project is progressing according to plan,” said Taiba. “Already its impact is being felt: the number of children registered for school next year has gone up, with 100 additional girls and boys registered.”

Fifteen-year old Shirinne, mentioned earlier in this article, is one of the students who dropped out of school two years ago due to poor conditions. “This year I heard that a lady came to our village and talked about the possibility of building a proper school for children,” she said. “My father told me this news and went with me to the school to register me. This makes me both happy and hopeful. My father says I must study to become someone who can help our people.”

Oak is delighted with this news and proud to be able to support the Nai Qala Association.



1. Hundreds of schools are officially registered by the state in Afghanistan but have no proper building to house them. Many children, such as those shown in this photo, attend school in makeshift tents or in the open air.
2. & 3. Learning Outside, based in North Carolina, the United States, offers children of all ages the chance to experience and learn about the outdoors, enhancing their lives and giving them a love for the natural world.



Helping children form connections with the natural world

When children have a chance to discover nature hands-on, their natural curiosity helps ignite their innate desire to learn.

This is the belief of **Learning Outside**, a farm situated at Triangle Land Conservancy's Irvin Nature Preserve in North Carolina. It encompasses 269 acres of pasture, forest and wetlands and offers nature courses to children of all ages. It believes that people learn and experience the world around them differently in natural settings, which is why discovering nature first-hand leads to happier, more successful learning experiences for children both at home and at school.

Learning Outside offers children the chance to experience and learn about the outdoors, enhancing their lives and giving them a love for the natural world. Courses take place throughout the day for different age groups, and there are also camps during the school holidays. Learning Outside's approach integrates the arts, sciences and humanities with outdoor learning. Experienced and knowledgeable naturalists, educators and artists lead the programmes which are held entirely outdoors, regardless of the weather.

As well as cultivating a sense of stewardship for the environment among its students, Learning Outside's programmes also emphasise community-building and good interpersonal relationships.

“The children learn to respect and trust each other. Through nature, children learn how to collaborate, pursue things that interest them and even teach other children what they learn.”
 - Wendy Banning, Director, Learning Outside

Research confirms that children need to spend time outdoors exposed to fresh air, sunlight and natural elements such as trees and grass if they are to be healthy as they grow and develop. In addition, if children have regular opportunities for free and unstructured play outdoors, they are smarter, happier, healthier and get along better with others. However, playing outdoors in a healthy environment might not be possible for children who live in built-up areas – heavy traffic, pollution or a lack of green places to play in, among other things, can prevent this. That is why Learning Outside focuses on children who do not have ready access to opportunities to learn and explore the outdoors.

Oak has been supporting the Learning Outside programme since 2011. The aim of the current grant is to develop the organisation's outdoor learning programmes and help ensure its financial stability.

Children who play outdoors regularly are smarter, happier, healthier and get along better with others.



Supporting vulnerable child migrants

Unaccompanied migrant children have been arriving in the US in increasing numbers over the past ten years. Recently these figures have grown to such a degree that the US President has deemed the situation a 'humanitarian emergency'. In 2012 the number of unaccompanied children migrating across the border from South and Central America was about 24,000. By 2014 that number had almost tripled to more than 68,000.²³

Just what is fuelling this mass exodus? A new US Department of Homeland Security report has attributed the problem to poverty and regional violence in South and Central American countries, particularly Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, where rates of homicide are extraordinarily high. The report shows that many of the unaccompanied minors come from some of the most dangerous cities in Central America and often they are fleeing violence.²⁴

These children have undertaken dangerous journeys of thousands of miles to travel to the US without their parents or guardians in the hope of a better life. Some have one parent they wish to join already in the country. Approximately 73 per cent are male and 27 per cent are female. Some 24 per cent of these children are below the age of 14.²⁵

The **United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)** works to protect the rights and address the needs of persons in forced or voluntary migration worldwide. It helps newly-arrived refugee families in practical ways, for example in finding and furnishing their first apartments, mastering the public transportation system, enrolling their children in school, finding a doctor, learning English and obtaining employment. It provides legal aid and it also assists refugees during the challenging process of overcoming past trauma and grief by helping them develop new support systems in America.

Many unaccompanied child migrants have suffered great trauma in their home countries and on their journeys to the US. Having witnessed violent acts being carried out against their family and friends, or having experienced them first-hand, many need specialised mental healthcare services to address post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health concerns.

“Since 2011 we have seen a great need for an increase in mental health and legal services. There has been a decrease in state funding that assists uninsured or underinsured people in this state.”

- Amy Schafer,
Programme Officer, USCRI

However, there are barriers, both linguistic and financial, to child migrants accessing the legal and mental health services they need. In addition they often do not know how to navigate the system. “The level of care that most of our clients needs is high,” said Amy. “Often they’ve suffered trauma, abuse – some have been in psychiatric inpatient centres. We also have many sexual assault victims, females especially.”

Oak’s grant to USCRI will help it to supply these much-needed services. “This grant will help offer bilingual mental health and legal services and I think it’s going to benefit a lot of children who are not being served, who have experienced a lot of difficulties in their lives,” said Lena White, a case manager and home study worker with USCRI. “Without putting a financial burden on their families, these children will be able to get the visas and the legal status that they qualify for.”

It is hoped that this will help increase the children’s sense of security, giving them hope for a brighter future. Over the next two years, USCRI will hire clinicians, programme managers, lawyers and legal assistants. All will be bilingual (English and Spanish speaking) and able to supply the children with the services they need.

In 2014 some

68,000

unaccompanied children migrated across the border from South and Central America to the United States.





Creating a sense of belonging in New York

Many children who grow up in parts of New York City can face tough odds in their journeys to adulthood and independence. They most likely attend overcrowded public schools where far more students fail than pass. Some lack strong family support and may have experienced abuse and emotional or physical neglect. They live in high-stress neighbourhoods, where poverty, substance abuse, violence and criminal behaviour are commonplace. This can be hard on youth, which is reflected in the figures: according to **Good Shepherd Services** (GSS), one in six young people between 16 and 24 in New York City are neither in school nor at work.

GSS works directly with communities in New York City. It operates more than 80 programmes which help nearly 30,000 children, youth and families each year. "GSS gives young people who often don't have opportunities the chance to shine and build lives for themselves," said Jennifer Zanger, the Brooklyn Division Director of community-based programmes in Red Hook and Gowanus. "That includes them finding satisfying careers, and a sense that they can really impact things in the world."

Starting out as the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in 1857, GSS has a long history. In its early years it focused on caring for troubled young women and in the early 1970s it broadened its work to provide services to vulnerable families. These include afterschool services, group homes for young people who can no longer live with their families, family counselling

centres and schools for teenagers who have fallen behind in regular high schools.

By providing at-risk youth with the support they need, they can build strong connections to their families and other caring adults, to their schools and to their communities. These connections create a powerful sense of belonging. From this foundation, young people are able to tap into their rich potential, overcome challenges and realise their dreams for a better future.

"Every day is a blessing here. Even with the most troublesome kid, it's still a blessing to know that that kid just wants to be around me and there's something I can give to that child... it's a very rewarding feeling."

- Woody Bien-Aimé
Director at Red Hook Community Center Beacon in Brooklyn

Believing in the profound strength of every individual, GSS works with each young person to help him or her identify and build on their inherent abilities. >>



1. STEM Instructor Royal Isaac at Red Hook school in Brooklyn teaches a GSS after-school class.
2. GSS students celebrate graduation at South Brooklyn Community High School, New York City.

In New York City,

1 in 6

young people between 16 and 24 are neither in school nor at work.





© Sebastian Turner/Oak Foundation



© Sebastian Turner/Oak Foundation

Illegal poaching is recognised as one of the five most lucrative transnational criminal activities, with major poaching rings operating in many well-known national parks.



» The staff are passionate about their work. They also all grew up in the communities themselves, so can identify with the children and youth. “If they don’t have us, sometimes they don’t have anyone,” said one GSS teacher. “So there’s not really an option anymore. We have to be there for them.”

GSS offers a “Ladder to Leaders” programme which provides young people the chance to contribute back to their communities by working with GSS, including through paid work during the summer months. It teaches children from a young age how to be successful in life and reach their full potential. “The longevity of service in the GSS afterschool world is quite unique,” said Jennifer. “Often we know our participants from when they are six years old until 25 years later, when they become directors in our programmes.”

“I believe that they love the fact that they can grow up in the programme as participants and then get their first work experience with us,” said Laura Greene, Senior Programme Director at Red Hook. “Participants are always coming back – looking for jobs – as well as just saying thank you, once they are in college. We have a number who participate in the evening centre as a way of giving back to the community that they come from ... so I do believe they enjoy it.”

Over the next five years, GSS will work on deepening services and expanding opportunities for children, youth and families in the high-poverty communities of Red Hook, East New York and Bedford-Stuyvesant in Brooklyn and the central Bronx. Oak Foundation is delighted to be able to support this work.

Using technology to stop poaching

It is estimated that tens of thousands of elephants are killed every year for their ivory. Once transported to countries in Asia, the tusks are usually shaped into ornaments and trinkets. There is also a huge demand for rhinoceros horn and tiger skins and parts, often used in traditional medicine.

Demand for these animals is so great that illegal poaching now threatens the survival of some species. Poaching is recognised as among the five most lucrative transnational criminal activities,²⁶ with major poaching rings operating in many important and well-known national parks. This illegal killing and trade of some of the world’s most iconic species has become one of the greatest threats to global conservation.

The Royal Foundation of The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry (The Royal Foundation), based in London, is working to combat the illegal poaching and trading of endangered species around the world. Advances in technology represent an opportunity to combat poaching and illegal wildlife trade and ultimately, to increase the populations of a number of endangered species. A spatial monitoring and research tool (SMART Connect) is designed to help rangers with surveillance and monitoring activities to strengthen site-based protection. It is being implemented in national parks globally. In partnership with Oak, The Royal Foundation will implement and upgrade technologies such as SMART



Connect in two important conservation sites – one in Nepal and the other in the Republic of the Congo.

In the Parsa Wildlife Reserve in Nepal, The Royal Foundation's on-site partner the Zoological Society of London will strengthen surveillance and communication support systems for anti-poaching operations with SMART Connect. The result will be a greater capacity to respond to wildlife incidents in real time, preventing tiger deaths from poaching and enabling law enforcement agencies to collect evidence, such as photographs, to be used in prosecuting wildlife criminals.

"We have been trained in SMART data collection and GPS handling," said Sailendra Raj Giri, monitoring and surveillance officer at the Parsa Wildlife Reserve. "This technology has been very useful and we are in the process of introducing it to set up a Rapid Response Mechanism to stop all the illegal activities and make Parsa Wildlife Reserve a safer home for wildlife."

While the focus is on tigers in Nepal, other species such as Asian elephants, leopards and gaur (also known as the Indian bison) will also benefit from the added protection.

In the Republic of the Congo, The Royal Foundation's on-site partner the Wildlife Conservation Society works with local staff to provide SMART technology. By upgrading existing technologies to SMART Connect, which offers more protection, rangers will have the technology they need to alert law enforcers when they come across poachers. Given the size of the national parks in the Republic of the Congo, the

implementation of SMART Connect will rely on satellite tracking devices and will primarily be used to help rangers prevent elephant poaching.

The Nouabale-Ndoki National Park is an enormous park in the north of the Republic of the Congo, stretching across more than 3,900 square kilometres and mostly comprised of tropical rainforest. There are no people living in the park and the impact of this surge in poaching had, until recently, been restricted to the park's outskirts. However, the discovery of an elephant's carcass close to the national park's headquarters in February 2015 revealed a major poaching ring operating in the area. SMART Connect will be rolled out and once it is up and running, Nouabale-Ndoki National Park can be used as a pilot site for roll-out in other locations.

"We are really excited about the impact of implementing SMART Connect in conservation parks in Nepal and Republic of the Congo," said Sian Bartram, director of development at The Royal Foundation. "We are sure it will make a difference to our conservation efforts and we hope we will be able to help park rangers keep endangered animals safe."



The photos on these pages of the report illustrate the work of The Royal Foundation of The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry. The Foundation works to combat the illegal poaching and trading of endangered species globally.

SMART Connect is designed to help rangers strengthen site-based protection of national parks.



Grants



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Association Nai Qala **USD 341,280 (7 months)**

To support the construction of a public school in the village of Zeera Gag in the Bamyan Province of Afghanistan.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of America

USD 300,000 (24 months)

To develop a training module that educates families on keeping children safe from potentially traumatic experiences and relationships.

Book Harvest

USD 500,000 (60 months)

To support Book Harvest in building a pipeline of books for low-income children that starts at birth and continues through elementary school.

Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth

USD 375,000 (36 months)

To coordinate efforts to implement fair, age-appropriate sentences for youth in the US, with a focus on abolishing life without parole sentences.

CARE USA

USD 1,268,177 (36 months)

To establish community governance models in the north, east and central provinces in Sri Lanka among communities which have been marginalized through poverty, civil conflict and discrimination.

Center for Child and Family Health

USD 300,000 (36 months)

To define, practice and disseminate the highest standards of care in preventing and treating childhood trauma in Durham, North Carolina.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro Public School Foundation

USD 200,000 (48 months)

To provide support to Project Achieve to teach high school students with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Chapel Hill, North Carolina the skills needed to transition to independent adult living from school.

Cherie Blair Foundation for Women

USD 386,128 (25 months)

To empower women entrepreneurs in communities in north and south Palestine, providing them with the tools and skills needed to grow profitable and sustainable businesses that are market-oriented, scalable and facilitate job creation.

Children & the Arts

USD 312,000 (36 months)

To engage more than 9,000 children from schools and hospice care in arts programming in the UK.

Community Empowerment Fund

USD 180,000 (36 months)

To cultivate opportunities, assets and communities that support the alleviation of homelessness and poverty.

Courtauld Institute of Art

USD 161,165 (18 months)

To support the full-time appointment of Dr Rebecca Arnold as Lecturer in the History of Dress and Textiles at The Courtauld Institute of Art in London.

Courtauld Institute of Art

USD 3,200,000 (60 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.

Courtauld Institute of Art

USD 589,402 (36 months)

To support the Courtauld's Young People and Galleries Programme, which offers students from low socio-economic backgrounds in London greater access to art, art history and expertise available from this leading academic institution.

Durham's Partnership for Children

USD 300,000 (36 months)

To establish the Early Childhood Training Institute to help create an environment in Durham, North Carolina in which young children are raised in healthy and supportive families.

Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne

USD 781,250 (36 months)

To understand the link between stress and pathological aggression from a physiological and neuro-physiological point of view in order to develop effective treatments for individuals showing highly aggressive behaviours.

El Futuro Inc.

USD 500,000 (48 months)

To provide bilingual and culturally informed behavioural health treatment for under-served Spanish speaking individuals and families in North Carolina, US.

Foraelder Fonden

USD 2,458,027 (16 months)

To construct a new student hall of residence for vulnerable single parents in Copenhagen, Denmark, including 12 small apartments and a number of common facilities.

Friends For All Children

USD 300,000 (36 months)

To support needs-driven projects to improve the lives of the poor and marginalised in Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand and Burma.

Friends-International Suisse

USD 312,500 (36 months)

To educate Swiss and European audiences about child abuse.



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Good Shepherd International Foundation ONLUS

USD 200,829 (36 months)
To promote skills training and entrepreneurship activities with Dalit and Tribal women in five different communities in India.

Good Shepherd Services

USD 5,000,000 (60 months)
To help Good Shepherd Services support children, youth and families in New York City who face the greatest challenges and build on their strengths to help them gain skills for success.

Guiding Lights

USD 263,500 (34 months)
To support a comprehensive caregiver support centre for family and professional caregiving in North Carolina, US.

Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ)

USD 250,000 (1 month)
To provide core support to HCZ, based in New York City, which offers programmes and services to more than 12,000 children and their families each year.

Havens Hospices

USD 405,710 (36 months)
To support the construction of a new Fair Havens' adult hospice in Essex, the United Kingdom, to increase the number of patients benefitting from Fair Havens' services.

International Anti-Poaching Foundation Inc.

USD 300,102 (12 months)
To disrupt poaching activities in Mozambique's Greater Lebombo Conservancy (GLC) which forms the eastern boundary to Kruger National Park and up to 40 per cent of the worlds remaining rhino.

Josh's Hope Foundation

USD 230,000 (48 months)
To work with young adults in North Carolina who have serious mental health conditions to improve their outcomes in employment and independent living, while reducing the risk of homelessness, incarceration and suicide.

Keeping Children Safe

USD 1,890,240 (46 months)
To provide core support to Keeping Children Safe to advocate for the adoption of international standards on child protection measures and to help Oak Foundation deliver on its own Safeguarding Children Policy.

Laurel House Inc.

USD 250,000 (24 months)
To support the development of a website (www.rtor.org) that guides, supports and provides best practice resources for recovery-oriented mental healthcare.

Let's Breakthrough Inc.

USD 300,000 (24 months)
To uproot long-standing norms and values that condone or encourage sexual violence on US college campuses.

Médecins sans Frontières Suisse

USD 2,500,000 (12 months)
To support Médecins Sans Frontière's humanitarian operations aiding refugees and internally displaced people – particularly women and children – in Syria, Lebanon and Iraq.

Modrehjaelpen (Mothers' Aid)

USD 1,016,949 (36 months)
To expand counselling and treatment efforts for single mothers, pregnant women and other vulnerable families in Denmark.

North Carolina Museum of Life and Science Inc.

USD 300,000 (24 months)
To change the way children and families discover nature and earth sciences through nature play and science, technology, engineering and math.

Persephone Productions Inc.

USD 194,000 (12 months)
To produce and air a documentary to raise awareness among Americans about the harms of institutional care (such as orphanages) on children.

Raleigh International

USD 250,000 (14 months)
To promote environmentally-friendly sustainable development in Nicaragua and Tanzania by supporting youth-led grassroot activities.

Red Barnet (Save the Children Denmark)

USD 338,983 (12 months)
To provide conflict-affected children, youth and their families in a besieged area in north-east Syria with a safe space to access psychological support.



The photos on the grant pages of the Special Interest section of the report illustrate the varied work supported by the Special Interest Programme. Work supported by this Programme covers a wide range of fields, including health, humanitarian relief and education.

Royal Foundation of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry

USD 478,571 (12 months)

To implement new technology which will help wildlife rangers with surveillance and monitoring activities, thereby strengthening their protection of endangered species including rhinoceroses, elephants, big cats and pangolin in the Republic of the Congo and Nepal.

Save the Children Fund

USD 2,500,000 (12 months)

To improve access to quality education services, child protection and psychosocial support services in Syria and the surrounding region for children affected by the conflict in Syria.

Save the Children Fund

USD 800,000 (60 months)

To tackle the link between social disadvantage and fewer life chances for children in poor areas of the UK.

Self-Help (Center for Community Self-Help)

USD 1,500,000 (24 months)

To create and protect ownership and economic opportunity in the US by helping single mothers break out of economic hardship by making homeownership more affordable.

Stichting BirdLife Europe

USD 444,868 (36 months)

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

Student U

USD 1,000,000 (60 months)

To provide a full continuum of services for economically disadvantaged students in Durham Public Schools in North Carolina – beginning in sixth grade – to successfully graduate from high school and college.

Swiss Philanthropy Circle

USD 288,525 (12 months)

To enable Swiss Philanthropy Circle to bring together likeminded philanthropists in Switzerland to have a greater collective impact on issues of shared concern, including increasing awareness around the positive contribution immigrants make to Switzerland.

Swiss Philanthropy Foundation

USD 2,295,000 (36 months)

To promote innovative collaboration among individuals and institutions, support bold and results-oriented grant-making and provide a trusted platform for new philanthropic investment in new economy issues.

The Joint Committee of Girl Guides in Denmark (PFD)

USD 135,593 (12 months)

To develop a model, template and implementation procedure for Girl Guides and Girl Scout organisations in Asia Pacific and Africa by deploying the Women At Work And Children At School entrepreneurship programme combined with volunteer activities.

The Resource Alliance

USD 634,635 (36 months)

To improve the effectiveness of civil society organisations to bring about social change.

The Royal Opera House

USD 20,981,422 (120 months)

To identify and nurture outstanding young professional singers, conductors, répétiteurs and directors, through the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme, to ensure that the supply of talent in opera is maintained at the highest level.

The Walking Classroom Institute

USD 75,000 (5 months)

To help improve the physical, mental and academic health of children by establishing and maintaining healthy lifestyle habits.

The Yehudi Menuhin School

USD 800,000 (60 months)

To enable exceptionally talented young musicians, regardless of race, creed or financial background, to attend a specialised music and academic programme at the Yehudi Menuhin School in the United Kingdom.

Thorn

USD 300,000 (36 months)

To conduct research and develop technology to help combat the sexual abuse and exploitation of children on the internet.

Tivoli A/S

USD 183,150 (36 months)

To support the Queen Ingrid Honorary Grant in 2016 and 2018 – in honour of the late Queen Ingrid of Denmark.

United Way of the Greater Triangle

USD 150,000 (24 months)

To create a regional system leading to the self-sufficiency of at-risk youth in communities in North Carolina.

University of Oxford

USD 2,000,000 (60 months)

To contribute to the next generation of researchers in the field of infectious diseases by supporting four outstanding scientists in the early stages of their careers in Nepal, Vietnam, Zimbabwe and Kenya.

University of Oxford

USD 4,000,000 (72 months)

To support the development of new therapeutic approaches for multiple sclerosis, at the University of Oxford, in the United Kingdom.

US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

USD 1,000,000 (24 months)

To ensure long-term safety and stability in the lives of 600 unaccompanied children in North Carolina through comprehensive mental health counselling, direct representation and increased legal capacity building.

Wildlife Justice Commission

USD 865,116 (24 months)

To expose, disrupt and dismantle key transnational wildlife organised crime networks.



This is a list of our grants approved in 2015. For a comprehensive list and full descriptions, please visit our grant database at www.oakfnd.org/grants

Special Initiative



In 2015 Oak Foundation provided five special initiative grants to organisations that build on the values, approaches and mission of the Foundation's different programme areas in addressing climate change. The main goal of these grants is to advance the urgent call for climate mitigation as part of the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the UNFCCC, which took place in Paris at the beginning of December 2015.

For example, Oak's partner, Internews' Earth Journalism Network, brought 40 journalists to the COP21 from 26 countries to cover the summit. "It is fantastic to be able to bring journalists from all around the world to cover this critical climate summit in Paris," said James Fahn, executive director of the Earth Journalism Network.

In addition, the Earth Journalism Network also published stories of how climate change is impacting people on its website (<http://climate.earthjournalism.net/>) and launched an innovative platform called OpenEarth.net, which collects regional

stories, and eventually data, in one place. It acts as a tool to help journalists cover local stories of environmental change by offering them an understanding of global processes.

"With tools such as OpenEarth.net and journalists around the world covering arguably the most important issue of our time, the hope is that we will continue to tackle this and make a difference for future generations," said Mr Fahn.

In 2016 Oak plans to build on this initial investment by establishing a new fund focused on strengthening the adaptive capacity and resilience of communities most impacted by climate change – in particular youth, indigenous peoples and women. Initially, community groups in three geographies – the Bay of Bengal, the Arctic and East Africa – will be targeted. In taking this step, we hope to leverage investments among public and private donors and to build the field of climate resilience, together with our philanthropic partners.

The Special Initiative grants reflect Oak Foundation's wish to contribute to climate justice.

Grants

Center for International Environmental Law Inc.

USD 1,000,000 (48 months)

To secure climate justice for those most impacted by climate change.

Global Greengrants Fund

USD 600,000 (12 months)

To increase youth advocacy and organisational capacity worldwide on the urgent issue of climate change.

Internews USA

USD 1,500,000 (24 months)

To bring attention to the human impact of climate change by activating Internews' global network of environmental journalists.

Tebtebba - Indigenous Peoples' International Center for Policy Research and Education

USD 1,000,000 (36 months)

To ensure that social and environmental measures and grievance mechanisms which protect the interests of indigenous peoples are incorporated into the establishment and operations of the Green Climate Fund.

Women's Environment & Development Organization

USD 899,760 (24 months)

To ensure strong, ambitious global climate change commitments at COP21 that respect and advance women's human rights and gender equality and build national, regional, and global women's constituencies around environmental issues, including adaptation and resilience.

Joint India Programme



The Indian government provides safety nets for the most vulnerable but many people find it hard to access them because of social and geographical barriers. We recognise that it will take time to make these provisions readily accessible for everyone and hope to assist in this process.

In the Joint India Programme, we have five Oak Programmes that work together to address a combination of issues that affect populations with less access to resources in Jharkhand and West Bengal located in east India. Ultimately, we aim to: improve the lives of the most marginalised groups; institutionalise practices that address poverty and social injustice; and build strong organisations at the grassroots.

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©EKJUT



Reflections

In recent years the Indian Government has put in place new laws designed to alleviate poverty. Seen together, these provisions have the potential to impact positively on key issues, for example to:

- guarantee citizenship rights;
- improve household income through employment guarantee schemes and basic minimum wage levels; and
- secure essential services key to family wellbeing.

However, translating these entitlements into reality for people living in poverty is challenging. While the federal and state governments have designed progressive measures, it is not that easy to implement them effectively. This is due to the diverse social characteristics and sheer scale of operations in such a large country.

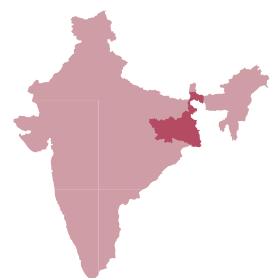
The partners of the Joint India Programme are committed to supporting local governments in Jharkhand and West Bengal. Our partners work to ensure that entitlements are accessible to those who need them most and that they closely reflect the aspirations and needs of the communities.

In some cases, our partners work with governments to ensure optimum uptake of entitlements by the people. Simultaneously, they raise awareness of what vulnerable social groups are entitled to.

The following section demonstrates some of the efforts of Oak partners.

11
grants were made by the Joint India Programme in 2015, totalling USD 4.14 million.

The Joint India Programme focuses on Jharkhand and West Bengal, in the east of the country.



1. Eggs are now included on school lunch menus, thanks to the work of the organisation EKJUT and local community groups. Following a campaign to end child malnutrition in Jharkhand, the government agreed to include eggs and fruit three times a week in public school meals.

2. Oak supports organisations that speak out against gender-based violence in India, such as the Association for Advocacy and Legal Initiatives.

3. SEWA Bharat is committed to strengthening women in the informal economy, such as beedi-workers in the Murshidabad district in West Bengal.



Find out more at www.oakfnd.org/india



Beedi-rollers can now see a better future

Some 70 per cent of poor, landless women in the Murshidabad district of West Bengal roll beedis for a living. Beedis are inexpensive thin cigarettes wrapped in leaves and they are typically rolled by women in their own homes as part of a cottage industry.

Laws have been put in place to protect these women's minimum wages but unscrupulous middlemen can still take advantage of the fact that women are dependent on them for raw materials and customers. Beedi-rollers are vulnerable to receiving wages that are too low or else they are all too often paid irregularly.

Three women, Abhilasha, Fatia and Malati, fell victim to a middleman who deducted money from their wages on the pretext that it would be paid to them later in the form of a pension. The women were scared to question the deductions in case the middleman stopped giving them work.

SEWA Bharat, an organisation committed to strengthening the movement of women in the informal economy, helped 624 beedi-workers in Murshidabad district to register with the Department of Social Welfare. This helped them secure a beedi-workers' identity card and to thereby get recognised as informal workers with access to government schemes and entitlements. Abhilasha, Fatia and Malati attended meetings organised by SEWA Bharat and realised that not only were the deductions higher than they should be for pensions, but they were being completely undocumented as well.

Officials worked with the women and the middlemen to clarify the entitlements of beedi-workers. These range from subsidies for housing, health check-ups and treatment, connecting their homes to electricity, maternity benefits, scholarships for their children and a set minimum wage. In the event of them being denied their entitlements, they can appeal before the head of the government of that particular district.

©EKJUT



“It was great that we were able to challenge the middlemen together. I am very happy to know that these deductions will help us get pensions when we turn 60.”

**- Fatia, beedi-roller
West Bengal**

Abhilasha, Fatia and Malati challenged the middleman who, after initially resisting, did finally stop deducting their salaries arbitrarily. Now the women are issued with receipts for legitimate pension deductions. As a result of their efforts, more than 3,000 women beedi-rollers have also benefitted – they are being paid correctly and any pension payments are fully documented.

Eggs at lunchtime!

Midday meals at schools in the region of Jharkhand used to be comprised only of rice, lentils and vegetables.

As rates of child malnutrition in Jharkhand are among the highest in the country, the non-for-profit organisation EKJUT, through its “Right to Food” campaign, supported community groups to demand that eggs be included on school lunch menus. EKJUT enables poor households in Jharkhand to access quality food year round, by linking them to government social protection programmes and helping them to grow nutritious crops.

To demonstrate their solidarity with the Right to Food project, communities and local organisations across 147 villages

in 19 districts of Jharkhand came together and, on one single day, contributed eggs to be served as part of the midday meals for more than 10,000 children. This was quite dramatic – mothers actually went into schools with eggs, voluntarily cooked the school meal, and served the children.

This public demonstration showed how important it is for many people in the communities to allow poor children access to this nutritious, affordable and locally available food. The government has since agreed to include eggs and fruit three times a week in meals in public schools across the state, reaching more than two and a half million children in 24 districts.

Making the invisible visible

In 2010 the Supreme Court of India ordered states to set up homeless shelters in cities with populations above half a million people. Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand, built 11 shelters; however, they remained unused, as basic amenities such as water, toilets and beds were not provided. >>

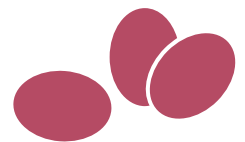


1. SEWA Bharat works to strengthen beedi-workers in the Murshidabad district in West Bengal.
2. Following a campaign to end child malnutrition in Jharkhand, the government agreed to include eggs and fruit three times a week in public school meals.

More than

**2.5
million**

children will have eggs and fruit included in their school meals in Jharkhand, India, thanks to a new government initiative.



Find out more at
www.oakfnd.org/india



Find Your Feet has helped create almost

200

self-help groups of women in four remote districts of Jharkhand.

» EKJUT, through its Right to Shelter project, carried out a survey on homeless people to understand how shelters could better meet their needs. To reach out to homeless people, EKJUT visited markets, religious places and railway stations, and ran a campaign to encourage homeless people to use the shelters.

Four of the 11 shelters have since been made functional and are gradually being used. In addition, locally hired staff are linking shelter users to social protection schemes, such as to pensions for disability or old age and health insurance.

Building connections between citizens and service providers

Find Your Feet supports long-term rural development projects in India and other countries. It works in Jharkhand to raise awareness at the community level and encourages people to ask for their entitlements and services. To date, Find Your Feet has helped create almost 200 self-help groups of women in four remote districts of Jharkhand. Representatives of these groups have formed district-level forums to raise concerns to officials e.g., the lack of water for drinking and farming, irregular health services or the poor condition of roads.

Polina Tudu is a tribal woman from Godda, a remote district of Jharkhand. She lives with her husband, their three children and her mother-in-law. The family depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Polina leads a self-help group in her village,

through which she shares information about social protection programmes with the group members. She also tries to ensure that elected members of the local village councils make these entitlements accessible. So far, Polina has enabled 28 men and women from her village to get a pension.

“The confidence I have gained through training, as well as the success of gaining pensions, has made me highly motivated to do more. My next goal is to work more with the Gram Sabhas [local self- government] to support planning and development of the whole village.”

- Polina Tudu, Godda, Jharkhand,

In partnership with other organisations, Find Your Feet has also provided training to village council representatives and local government officials, as well as service providers. By informing communities and bringing communities and service providers together, Find Your Feet has enabled poor and vulnerable communities to access their entitlements.

Grants



3

© Anjali



4

© Virginia Ruan/Oak Foundation

Columbia Group for Children in Adversity **USD 292,569 (16 months)**

To develop, test and promote community-owned child protection mechanisms in the state of Jharkhand.

Centre for Health and Social Justice

USD 331,858 (36 months)

To strengthen the network "Forum for Engaging Men" in West Bengal and Jharkhand to support men to become responsible partners and caring fathers.

Centre for Women Development Studies **USD 58,263 (4 months)**

To develop understanding on the intersections of different labour laws relevant to migrant workers from low-income groups in India.

Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action **USD 639,217 (36 months)**

To support leadership development of women who have been elected as political representatives in Panchayati Raj Institutions in India.

Feminist Approach to Technology (FAT)

USD 322,649 (36 months)

To adapt FAT's programmes in Jharkhand so that women and girls aged between 17-25 can: explore opportunities relating to science, technology, engineering and maths; benefit from academic and employment opportunities in these areas; and develop leadership through feminist use of technology.

Fund For Global Human Rights

USD 168,013 (36 months)

To support three marginalised populations in West Bengal, India on the Bangladesh border.

Iswar Sankalpa **USD 469,274 (48 months)**

To provide core support to Iswar Sankalpa to enable it to continue to work with homeless men and women with mental illnesses in Kolkata, India.

Mahila Housing Trust **USD 417,682 (36 months)**

To upgrade the skills of women construction workers in Ranchi, Jharkhand, and create an enabling environment whereby women with enhanced skills are able to find better work opportunities, enjoy higher wages and improved conditions of work.

Socio Legal Information Centre/Human Rights Law Network (HRLN) **USD 720,739 (36 months)**

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

Srijan Foundation **USD 171,354 (36 months)**

To support the Jharkhand Anti-Trafficking Network to help women in Jharkhand, India, to migrate safely, thus preventing the trafficking of women and children.



1. Polina Tudu shares information about social protection programmes that are in place through a self-help group that she runs in her village. So far, Polina has enabled 28 men and women from her village to get a pension.
2. Here Polina Tudu is pictured with some members of her community. She works to inform people of their entitlements.
3. ANJALI works for the recognition of mental illness issues within India's mainstream health system. It speaks for a large population of marginalised people with mental illness about a professional and inclusive system of care and treatment.
4. Oak supports many grassroots organisations in India which work to improve the lives of the most vulnerable.



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Denmark



The Denmark Programme is a national programme. In this Programme, we provide grants to organisations in Denmark and Greenland.

We seek innovative solutions that improve the daily lives and future prospects of socially vulnerable and marginalised groups. In particular, we focus on initiatives that target ethnic minority women, homeless people, mothers, children, immigrants and refugees.

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© Mogens Andreassen



Supporting victims of stalking

More than 100,000 people are victims of stalking each year in Denmark, and this figure is increasing. A stalker may be a former intimate partner of the victim, a colleague, an acquaintance or even a total stranger. Both men and women can be victims or perpetrators. Victims of stalking often do not know what to do or where to turn. Professionals such as police and social workers do not always know how to respond to situations of stalking, which can worsen the situation or make it difficult to press charges.

But what is stalking, exactly? Stalking consists of any behaviour that is intrusive into another person's life. This can include physically following someone, harassing him or her repeatedly with telephone calls, letters, texts, or any other forms of unwanted communication, or other actions designed to disrupt the victim's life and cause anxiety and fear.

Stalking can cause social and psychological problems for the victim and his or her family. There is no legislation in Denmark specifically prohibiting stalking, but a stalker may be prosecuted if he or she violates a restraining order that has previously been filed by the victim. Because of the need for improved legislation on the matter, the Danish Stalking Center was founded in April 2010. In 2015 the Denmark Programme began supporting the organisation, and on 1 June 2015, the first centre in the Nordic region opened to help victims of stalking through intervention, counselling and research. The centre also works to gain knowledge about how best to

respond to stalking, for both victims and professionals offering support.

“It is our experience that more and more victims of stalking are turning to us for specialised help. The vulnerable require therapy and counselling to learn about what they can actually do in their specific situations. I'm really happy that we can help them.”

**-Lise Linn Larsen,
Danish Stalking Center**

So far, people have travelled from all over the country to receive help at the centre in Copenhagen, which also offers counselling and advice over the phone. >>



1. The Denmark Programme has supported the implementation of an artificial football field in Nørresundby, Northern Jutland. This will allow children of all backgrounds to play together, thereby helping integration in the community.
2. Refugee children from four Red Cross Centres in Zealand say thank you for a sports camp.
3. Trampolinhuset, a community centre in Copenhagen for asylum seekers, organises a dance class for women.

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grants were made by the Denmark Programme in 2015, totalling USD 4.94 million.



Find out more at
www.oakfnd.org/denmark


In 2015, the Saint Lukas Foundation opened the first hospice for children in Denmark.

» The centre is working to increase counselling services, as well as the hours its phone hotline service is available. **The Danish Stalking Center** director Lise Linn Larsen expects the demand to continue to grow.

The centre offers professional psycho-social counselling to both the victims and perpetrators of stalking. It offers advice and guidance to families, social networks and professionals. It also works to improve the situations of victims of stalking and collect and disseminate knowledge about stalking. In addition, the association works to develop new preventive intervention models by working with the police and relevant organisations such as shelters for men in crisis situations and women's crisis centres.

A hospice for children

Hospices for children and young people have existed for years in England, Scotland and Germany, and in 2010 the Nordic region's first hospice for children and young people opened in Sweden. However, up until recently, there were no specialised palliative care centres for children in Denmark.

 **“It is important to see the person, not only the disease.”**
-The Saint Lukas Foundation

Hospitals do not generally provide a welcoming and sympathetic space for families dealing with the terminal illness of a child, nor do they provide a comfortable place for sick children to spend time with their families. To get around this problem, adult hospices have sometimes admitted children. However,

this is not enough – sick children and their families need specialised care, attention and surroundings that allow for family life and wellbeing.

In November 2015 the Denmark Programme donated USD 500,000 to make it possible for the Saint Lukas Foundation to open the first children's hospice in the country. In **Lukashuset Children's Hospice** an environment which encourages children's learning and freedom of expression is cultivated. Here they have fun, make friends and play as they and their families come to terms with the illness the child faces. Without this support, families of seriously ill children may experience isolation and fragmentation, since the parents often have to take turns to be in the hospital or at home with their other children.

Children's hospices provide a space for children with life-threatening or terminal illnesses to get specialised palliative treatment, while being surrounded by their families in a warm and peaceful environment. Unlike adult hospices, the children's families can actually live with them at the hospice, with a bedroom, a small living room and kitchen for each family, as well as shared spaces where they can meet to discuss and support each other. The Lukashuset Hospice allows whole families to be together, giving them a chance to live as normal a family life as possible.

The Saint Lukas Foundation opened the first hospice for adults in Denmark in 1992. Since then, 17 other hospices have opened across the country, as well as 6 palliative care hospital units and a palliative centre of excellence. There are also 27 outreach palliative teams from hospitals and hospices. The Denmark Programme hopes that by supporting the Lukashuset Children's Hospice, it will also open the way for more children's hospices across Denmark to be built.



1. High:Five Foundation assists Danish businesses to create jobs and provide training to young people who may have been in prison or otherwise marginalised.
2. The staff of the Lukashuset Children's Hospice, which provides specialised palliative treatment to children with life-threatening or terminal illnesses.

Grants



Asyl Dialog Tanken – Trampolinhuset USD 159,322 (12 months)

To support Trampolinhuset, a community centre in Copenhagen for asylum-seekers.

Danish Doc Production Aps USD 50,847 (12 months)

To support the production of a documentary called “My Life as a Trafficked Woman”.

Dansk Stalking Center USD 677,966 (24 months)

To establish and support the Danish Stalking Center in Copenhagen to help victims of stalking through intervention, counselling and research.

Foreningen Det Sociale Netværk USD 169,492 (12 months)

To co-finance the project “Build Bridges” – an initiative targeted at newly-arrived refugees in Denmark.

Foreningen Grønlandske Børn USD 158,305 (36 months)

To ensure that Greenlandic children, on meeting with social authorities, are accompanied by a trained adult to ensure that they are supported in accessing their entitlements.

Frivilligcenter Ringkøbing-Skjern USD 28,917 (12 months)

To provide free dental care to marginalised people living in Ringkøbing-Skjern municipality in the west of the country.

High:Five Foundation USD 25,424 (12 months)

To provide support to High:Five Foundation, which assists Danish businesses in creating jobs and providing training for young people who have left prison, as well as other marginalised youth.

Joan-Søstrene USD 29,661 (12 months)

To provide support to Joan-Søstrene – a group of women who help and advise women who have suffered violence, rape, incest or sexual harassment.

Kofoeds Skole USD 1,016,949 (36 months)

To set up a school in Greenland to help marginalised Greenlanders living in or returning to Greenland.

Kvindehuset i Lyngby USD 79,660 (12 months)

To furnish rooms at the Women Crisis Center in Lyngby in the east of the country, which is moving to new and better facilities.

Lindholm IF USD 372,881 (12 months)

To build a synthetic football field in Nørresundby in Northern Jutland.

LivaRehab USD 242,128 (24 months)

To support LivaRehab, which provides rehabilitation services to female sex-workers in Copenhagen by building up socio-economic businesses where the women can work.

LOKK USD 84,746 (24 months)

To support a taskforce (facilitated by LOKK) which aims to break down taboos surrounding partner violence or violence in close relationships in Copenhagen.

Muhabet København USD 549,063 (24 months)

To provide core support to Muhabet, a drop-in centre in Copenhagen for the mentally ill and traumatised, which focuses particularly on refugees and immigrants.

Reden International USD 164,441 (24 months)

To provide support to Reden International in Copenhagen to pay annual wages to a social worker.

Røde Kors USD 423,534 (36 months)

To provide support to undocumented migrants in Copenhagen and Aarhus through Røde Kors health clinics.

Sankt Lukas Stiftelsen USD 576,271 (24 months)

To provide support to the first children's hospice in Denmark, called “Lukashuset”.

Sehested Media Aps USD 41,525 (12 months)

To support Sehested Media Aps in its efforts to increase awareness around dyslexia.

SISU og Dansk Røde Kors USD 25,424 (12 months)

To provide support to a sports camp for refugee children aged between 8 and 16 years' old.

Skibby Kirke USD 25,424 (12 months)

To purchase a digital church organ for Skibby church in Frederikssund in Zealand in the east of the country, where the church is a central gathering place for the local community.

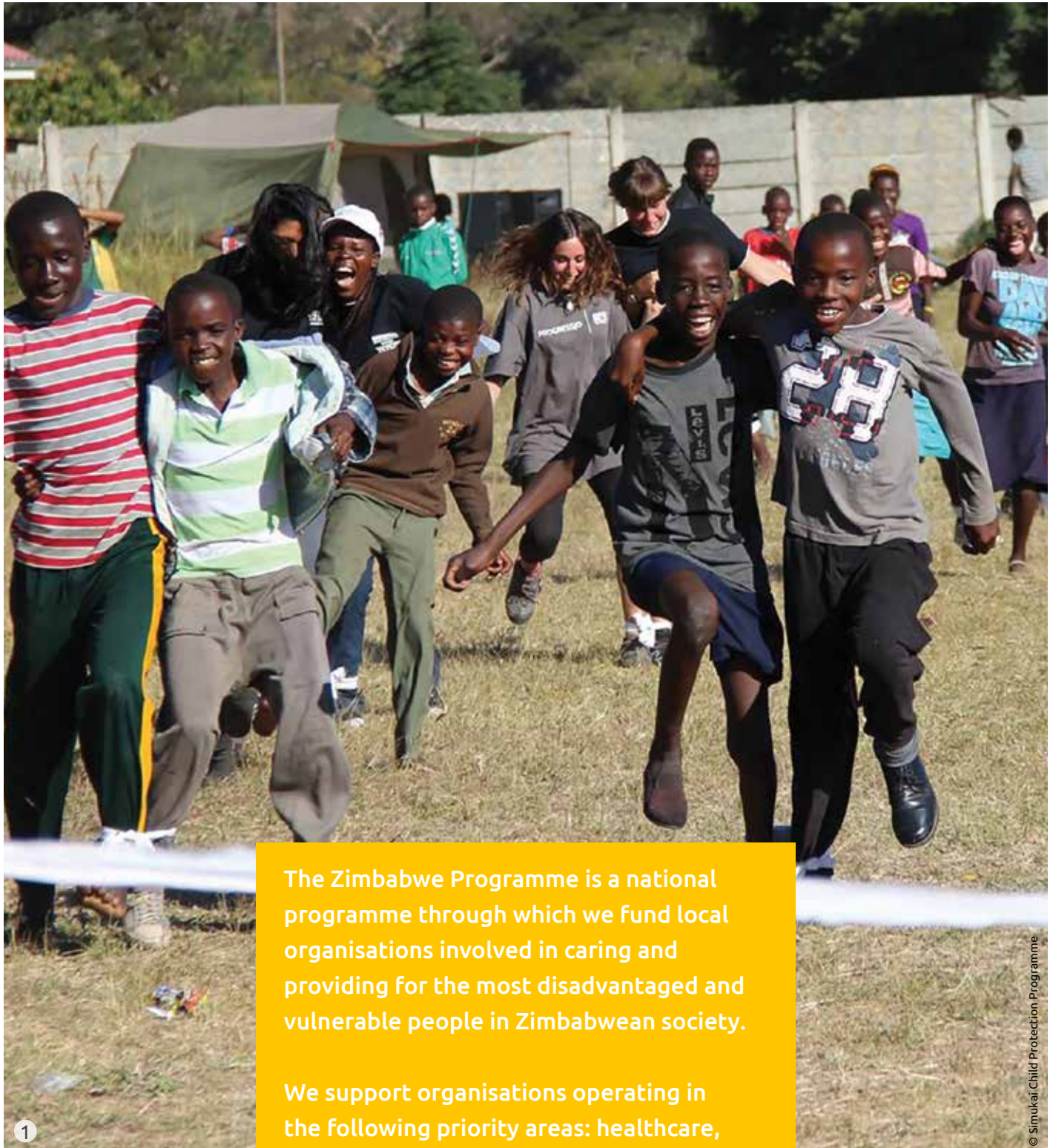
Vor Frue sogn/ Den Sorte Gryde USD 33,898 (12 months)

To provide support to Den Sorte Gryde to supply food to about 80 homeless people every day in Copenhagen.



This is a list of our grants approved in 2015. For a comprehensive list and full descriptions, please visit our grant database at www.oakfnd.org/grants

Zimbabwe



The Zimbabwe Programme 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.

1

© Simukai Child Protection Programme



Zimbabwe projects

The Zimbabwe Programme supports various projects in Zimbabwe, with the aim of helping the most vulnerable and marginalised people. Some of the projects, by region, include:

Harare

Mashambanzou Care Trust

Based in the capital Harare, **Mashambanzou** was founded in 1989 by Sister Noreen Nolan of the Little Company of Mary to provide care and support to people in poor communities living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Staff operate in the highly-populated suburbs of Harare. The Trust works to implement a family-centred approach to treatment and support for people living with HIV/AIDS, as well as those affected by the disease (such as immediate family members). Teams of social workers and nurses carry out community outreach to find vulnerable people in need. The Trust also offers palliative care services to critically ill patients.

Zimcare Trust

Zimcare Trust provides support to people with special needs. A special mention this year must be made of two Zimcare members who represented Zimbabwe in the Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles that took place from 22 July to 4 August 2015. Kudakwashe Makuyana, aged 31, featured in the photo above, came fourth in athletics and Dadirai Jack, aged 36, came second in golf and won a silver medal.

Manicaland

Simukai

The Simukai Child Protection Programme, established in 2000, is a community response to the plight of street children, of whom many are orphaned or have been abandoned and suffer abuse and neglect. Simukai works to raise awareness of child abuse. It advocates for community action against such abuse in all seven districts of Manicaland.

Family AIDS Caring Trust (FACT), Nyanga

FACT began operating in 1987 as Zimbabwe's first HIV/AIDS service organisation. It has since transformed itself into a community-centred organisation. Nowadays, it finds ways for people to make their livelihoods, conducts research and develops capacity among the communities to become sustainable. The Nyanga community gender empowerment project supports local farmers groups with the aim of improving living standards in the community.



1. Children from the Simukai Child Protection Programme have some fun running the three-legged race together.
2. Kudakwashe Makuyana, aged 31, featured on the right, brandishes his medal after coming fourth in athletics in the Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles in summer 2015.

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grants were made by the Zimbabwe Programme in 2015, totalling USD 1.02 million.



Find out more at www.oakfnd.org/zimbabwe



Nzeve Deaf Children's Centre provides sign language courses to parents, siblings and members of the community to support children with hearing difficulties.



Kubatana

This thriving and vibrant community-oriented, not-for-profit organisation aims to promote early adherence to anti-retroviral treatment among HIV positive people. A multi-service project, it has a catchment area of more than 65 square kilometres. It works to spread awareness among youth on HIV/AIDS prevention. It also provides cancer treatment, counselling and testing, nutrition and health education.

NZEVE Deaf Children's Centre

Without the right care, children with hearing difficulties can feel isolated and cut off from their families, peers and communities. At **Nzeve Deaf Children's Centre**, staff work with parents and siblings to teach them sign language to help empower the hearing-impaired community. Recently, in efforts to promote access to justice for people with disabilities, Nzeve provided local police officers and nurses in the city of Mutare in the east of the country with a sign language course.

Masvingo

Family AIDS Caring Trust (FACT)

FACT has been working with 12 schools in Chiredzi. Through gender-based empowerment programmes, it has raised awareness around child abuse and on the prevention of the spread of HIV among almost 6,000 children. FACT's youth programme also offers training to young people in bricklaying, carpentry and beauty care.

FACT's community and home-based care programme works with 500 community leaders to spread awareness around the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. It has also been promoting male involvement in health-related activities to reduce gender-based violence between couples.

Other parts of Zimbabwe

Development Aid from People to People (DAPP)

For the last 34 years **DAPP** has been working to establish long-term development projects in Zimbabwe.

DAPP works in education, community development, agriculture and rural development, health (including HIV/AIDS), economic development and environmental conservation. DAPP's community-led projects empower people with knowledge, skills and tools to improve their wellbeing.



1. A child at the Nzeve Deaf Children's Centre learns how to write using special phonetic equipment.
2. Supporters of the Nzeve Deaf Children's Centre raise awareness on International Deaf Awareness Day.
3. Development Aid from People to People raises awareness around reproductive and children's rights
4. FACT Chiredzi promotes gender equality through its income savings and lending project.

Grants



HIV/AIDS

Bethany Project
USD 91,502 (12 months)
 To empower communities to care for and support orphans and vulnerable children and to prevent HIV/AIDS.

Development Aid From People to People in Zimbabwe - HOPE Humana People to People
USD 59,987 (12 months)
 To improve the availability and the utilisation of gender-sensitive and youth friendly HIV services in Bindura.

Family AIDS Caring Trust, Chiredzi
USD 29,610 (12 months)
 To contribute towards the reduction of HIV prevalence and mitigate its impact on communities.

Family AIDS Caring Trust, Rusape
USD 53,000 (12 months)
 To facilitate the provision of sustainable livelihoods, health support, and HIV/AIDS care and prevention to vulnerable and marginalised communities.

Family AIDS Caring Trust, Mashonaland West
USD 54,411 (12 months)
 To facilitate the provision of sustainable livelihoods, health support, and HIV/AIDS care and prevention to vulnerable and marginalised communities.

Family AIDS Caring Trust, Nyanga
USD 53,498 (12 months)
 To improve the quality of life of vulnerable and marginalised people through sustainable development initiatives, disease prevention and provision of holistic quality care services integrated to the health delivery system in Zimbabwe.

Island Hospice and Bereavement Services
USD 79,990 (12 months)
 To serve as centre of health excellence that provides palliative care and support.

Kubatana Vocational Training Centre
USD 67,849 (12 months)
 To provide primary healthcare to the Kubatana community.

Mashambanzou Care Trust
USD 64,767 (12 months)
 To provide quality care for poor people living with HIV/AIDS and to empower local communities to deal effectively with the disease.

Midlands AIDS Service Organization
USD 38,860 (12 months)
 To help with the provision of quality multi-faceted HIV/AIDS programmes for various groups in the Midlands province by building capacity for effective and sustainable interventions.

National St Johns Council for the Republic of Zimbabwe
USD 59,441 (12 months)
 To continue to train the public to provide healthcare to people with HIV/AIDS.

Special needs Education

Isheanesu Multi-purpose Centre for Disabled Children
USD 19,200 (12 months)
 To continue to provide care and support for children with a wide range of disabilities.

NZEVE Deaf Children's Centre
USD 45,563 (12 months)
 To provide core support to Nzeve Deaf Children's Centre and promote the rights of children and youth with disabilities to participate fully in society.

Sir Humphrey Gibbs Training Center
USD 17,369 (13 months)
 To look after and care for destitute adults by providing education, skills training, shelter, warmth and food.

Zimcare Trust
USD 147,718 (12 months)
 To support Zimcare Head Office and 14 centres so that they continue to offer specialised education and rehabilitation services to the developmentally disabled.

Zimcare Trust
USD 105,947 (7 months)
 To facilitate an environment in which all learning and care programmes are anchored on individual needs so that each person is assisted to excel within his or her abilities.

Other

Rotary Club Harare Dawn
USD 8,490 (3 months)
 To buy medical equipment for use in some of Zimbabwe's hospitals, some of which are critically short of medical equipment.

Women, children and elderly at risk

Simukai Child Protection Program
USD 35,000 (12 months)
 To support Simukai Child Protection Program in providing for the social, physical, psychological and spiritual needs and rights of vulnerable children and youth.



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Footnotes

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Comments

Please email commdept@oakfnd.org if you would like to provide feedback on this Annual Report.

Disclaimer

The editors have tried to ensure the accuracy of this report but cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. The names of all children mentioned in this publication have been changed. In addition, a few grants are not listed in this Annual Report.

Oak Foundation would like to thank Lindsay Hawthorne, Eva Hermes and Mia Moore for their help with the production of this report.