



# Annual Report

1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021



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IAN BIRD



BULGARIAN FUND FOR WOMEN



ECOTHAILAND FOUNDATION



ARKHANGELSK CENTRE OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGIES GARANT (RUSSIA)



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Top: Zambian Governance Foundation

Bottom (L – R): Dalia Association (Palestine), EcoThailand Foundation, Fundación Semilla (Bolivia)

# From the GFCF Chair

During the third week of March 2020, the GFCF board was scheduled to hold our annual face-to-face meeting in York, U.K. But as the date approached, questions began to arise: What does everyone think about this COVID-19 thing? Has anyone else heard warnings about international travel, and what if the borders close while we are there? Is it safe to board a plane? It is quite strange to think back on those early, confused discussions now that “lockdowns”, “face masks”, “vaccinations” etc. are part of our everyday lexicon, dominate our thoughts and dictate our behaviours. As I’m sure you might have guessed, the board meeting was ultimately held virtually; one of the first of countless meetings on Zoom that I’ve attended over the past year.

As I reflect on the year – specifically the work of the GFCF – I am most struck by the extraordinary response of community philanthropy actors around the world against a backdrop of crisis, uncertainty, and despair. From delivering aid to the most vulnerable and launching emergency grant programmes, to running public awareness campaigns and harnessing local action and solidarity, GFCF partners stepped up and stepped in to address the impacts of the pandemic on the communities that they serve. While the responses were diverse and

varied, there were similarities too. Responses were locally rooted, taking into account community needs and priorities, and balanced efficiency, transparency and flexibility. Though urgent needs were prioritized, many GFCF partners were also thinking about the long-term and about the lasting impacts of the pandemic, both good and bad. I am in awe of some of the creative work that emerged despite the trying circumstances and invite you to read this report further to get a better sense of some of the highlights.



GANDJABASAR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (AZERBAIJAN)



HAITI COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



HARMONY PLATFORM (CHINA)



FOUNDATION FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION (INDIA)

Despite the critical roles that national and local actors have played, at the GFCF we continue to be concerned by the paltry amount of funding and support that continues to be directed (or not) to local civil society actors in the Global South. In June 2020, the Centre for Global Development reported that, of the US \$2.5 billion (approximately £2,028,500,000) contributed in donor aid to address COVID-19, local and national organizations had received only US \$1.7 million (less than £1.4 million), or just 0.07%.<sup>1</sup> However, there have also been signs of progress, and you can find further information on some of our new relationships with donors on [page 15](#). This includes new partnerships with the European Union, as well as the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs which is supporting the “Giving for Change” programme. Giving for Change is an incredibly exciting development for the field that will see a €24 million (approximately £21.5 million) investment in community philanthropy development in eight countries over the next five years.

Before closing, I should note that this year saw a change in GFCF board leadership. In February 2021, Rita Thapa stepped down as Chair and I was appointed to the position. I would like to express my appreciation to Rita for her resolute leadership, and the care and humanity she brought to the position. The board is incredibly

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cgdev.org/blog/humanitarian-financing-failing-covid-19-frontlines>

“  
Despite the critical roles that national and local actors have played, at the GFCF we continue to be concerned by the paltry amount of funding and support that continues to be directed (or not) to local civil society actors in the Global South.  
”

grateful to Rita for the role she played over the past four years as Chair, and we look forward to advancing much of the work she guided. I will also take this opportunity to thank the members of the board for their collaboration and diligence, as well as the GFCF staff who have shown amazing commitment and adaptability during challenging times.

The GFCF’s network of allies spread around the world must be equally recognized and appreciated for the critical roles they play as part of the wider #ShiftThePower movement. Moving forward, we remain committed to this movement, and to supporting broader efforts in this regard – particularly as we all grapple with the inequities of the global pandemic, and as the importance of shifting resources and power to local actors is further underlined.



**Ian Bird**  
Chair, GFCF



MICAIA FOUNDATION (MOZAMBIQUE)



ECOTHAILAND FOUNDATION

# About our work

**We believe in people-led development. That means shifting power to the community level. It's not only the right thing to do, but it's also the most effective way to ensure results that will last, that are owned and shaped by the people they are meant to reach.**

**We believe that it is time for people, institutions and networks – wherever they are big or small – who care about inclusion, dignity and justice, to work together for a world in which top-down meets bottom-up.**

## Community philanthropy and durable development

With an emphasis on local assets, local decision-making and a long-term view, community philanthropy is a strategy to achieve durable development. We use the word “durable” because it suggests the ability of something to be strong, robust and to withstand pressure. Civil society organizations and non-profits that rely on external funding are often not durable: their work can be overly shaped by the priorities of their donors rather than those of local

communities and, if they have not invested in building a local support base, they are often vulnerable to sudden changes or reductions in aid and philanthropic flows.

For us, durable development means resilient systems – networks that include people, communities and organizations – and strong organizations that are rooted in their constituencies, that share and devolve power, and whose legitimacy rests on their ability to mobilize local participation, including local giving.



## Our strategy

The GFCF is a grassroots grantmaker working to promote and support institutions of community philanthropy around the world. Our long-term goal is to embed the practice and paradigm of community philanthropy as a cornerstone of a new architecture for effective, locally-owned and locally-driven development that shifts power and voice to the community level.

We work with individual community foundations and other local grantmakers and their networks around the world, with a particular focus on the Global South and Central and Eastern Europe. Through small grants, technical support and networking, we help these local institutions to strengthen and grow so that they can fulfil their potential as vehicles for local development and as part of the infrastructure for sustainable development, poverty alleviation and citizen participation.

## Our core objectives

- 1 To build institutional capacity (through the provision of small grants and technical assistance) among community philanthropy organizations to enable them to build social and financial capital and enhance local decision-making processes in their communities.
- 2 To promote collaboration and networks which advance the field of community philanthropy to increase their effectiveness.
- 3 To influence and build the relationship between the community philanthropy field and policy makers, governments and international development agencies.



# 1 Key outcomes in 2020/2021

## Grants to individual community philanthropy organizations

We made grants totalling to £1,261,090 to 81 community philanthropy organizations in 41 countries.

### Grants and learning programmes



**COVID-19** The majority of our grantmaking supported our global network of community philanthropy partners in their responses to COVID-19, both in the short and longer-terms. Activities included the direct provision of emergency aid to vulnerable and marginalized groups, information campaigns, local fundraising appeals and small grants programmes to support grassroots groups. In some cases, GFCF grants were used to cover core costs so partners could focus on their COVID-19 response. Many partners are already thinking more long-term, using GFCF grants to set up emergency funds in preparation for future shocks, to engage in longer-term processes aimed at rebuilding local economies and livelihoods and to strengthen new alliances and systems of solidarity that emerged during the pandemic.



**Institutional development** These grants are tailored to the specific circumstances and requirements of our partners. Overall, they are aimed at helping to strengthen community philanthropy organizations' abilities to serve and engage their communities around diverse local issues, to unlock new resources and assets at the local level as a way of building local ownership as well as financial resilience, and to strengthen trust among different parts of the community. A number of institutional development grants made before the pandemic took hold were re-purposed to allow partners to adapt to dramatically changed circumstances.



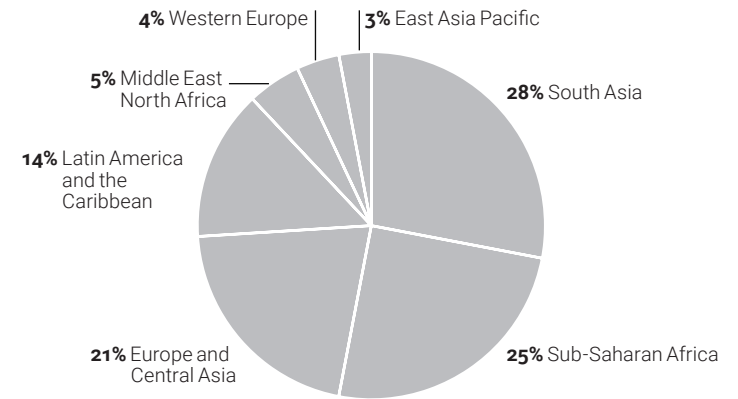
**Research** A key objective of the GFCF is to grow the evidence base for community philanthropy. With support from the Network for Empowered Aid Response (NEAR) and Save the Children Denmark we made one research grant to the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) – as part of the “Innovation for localization – building bridges” project (see page 15 for further background). The research explores the localization agenda, #ShiftThePower and African philanthropic models in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal.



RAWA CREATIVE PALESTINIAN COMMUNITIES FUND

### Grants distribution by geography

Distribution in terms of total funds disbursed:



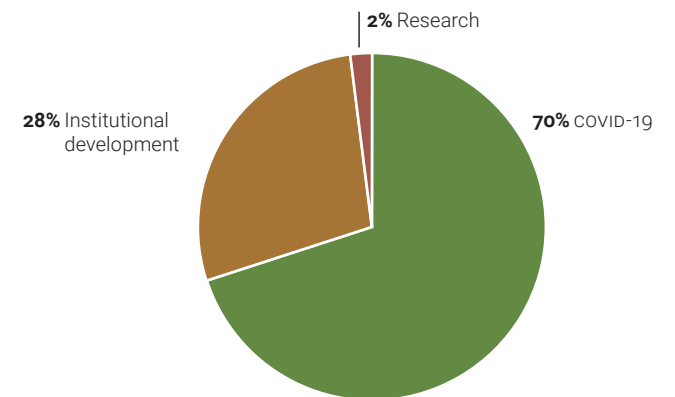
TEWA (NEPAL)



BULGARIAN FUND FOR WOMEN

### Grants distribution by programme

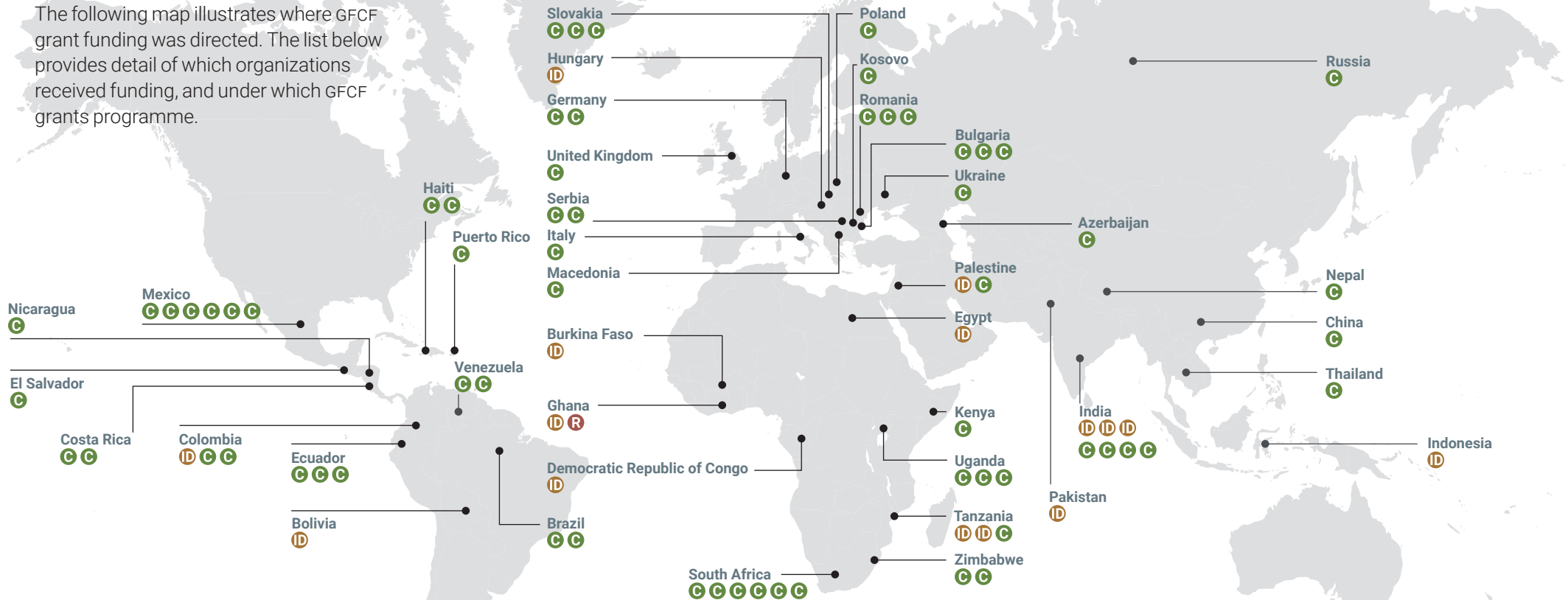
Distribution in terms of total funds disbursed:





# Grants map

The following map illustrates where GFCF grant funding was directed. The list below provides detail of which organizations received funding, and under which GFCF grants programme.



**Key**  
**ID** Institutional development  
**C** COVID-19  
**R** Research

- Azerbaijan**  
Gandjabasar Community Foundation
- Bolivia**  
Fundación Semilla
- Brazil**  
Casa Fluminense  
ICOM – Instituto Comunitário Grande Florianópolis

- Bulgaria**  
Bulgarian Fund for Women  
Foundation  
Community Donation Fund Sliven  
Foundation  
Community Donation Fund Stara Zagora
- Burkina Faso**  
Initiative Pananetugri pour le Bien-être de la Femme
- China**  
Harmony Platform
- Colombia**  
Emerger – Socio-Environmental Fund  
Fundación Prospeii  
Fundación un Distrito en Paz
- Costa Rica**  
Guanacaste Community Fund  
Monteverde Community Fund
- Democratic Republic of Congo**  
Fonds Pour les Femmes Congolaises
- Ecuador**  
Asociación Rafalex  
Fondo Neque  
Fundación Sonrisas del Futuro
- El Salvador**  
Asociación Conexión al Desarrollo de El Salvador

- Egypt**  
Waqfayat al Maadi Community Foundation
- Germany**  
Bürgerstiftung Duisburg  
Bürgerstiftung Stuttgart
- Ghana**  
STAR Ghana Foundation  
West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI)
- Haiti**  
Haiti Community Foundation (2 grants)
- India**  
ECONET  
Foundation for Social Transformation  
Enabling Northeast India  
Human and Institutional Development Forum  
Keystone Foundation  
National Foundation for India  
Solidarity Foundation  
Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA)
- Hungary**  
Ferencváros Community Foundation

- Indonesia**  
Indonesia for Humanity
- Italy**  
Fondazione di Comunità del Canavese
- Kenya**  
Grassroots Development Initiatives Foundation – Kenya
- Kosovo**  
Forum for Civic Initiatives (FIQ)
- Macedonia**  
Local Community Development Foundation Stip
- Mexico**  
Alternativas y Capacidades AC  
Fondo Acción Solidaria, A.C. (FASOL)  
Centro de Derechos Humanos Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez  
Centro para el Desarrollo Social y la Sustentabilidad Nuiwari A.C  
Intrepidas Mexico Mujeres Transformando con Acciones A.C  
Sakil Nichim Antsetik AC
- Nepal**  
Tewa

- Nicaragua**  
Cooperative de Producción de Frutos TLAN R.L.
- Pakistan**  
Sindh Community Foundation
- Palestine**  
Dalia Association  
Rawa Creative Palestinian Communities Fund
- Poland**  
FemFund
- Puerto Rico**  
ChangeMaker Foundation
- Romania**  
Bucharest Community Foundation  
Covasna Community Foundation  
Odorheiu Secuiesc Community Foundation
- Russia**  
Arkhangelsk Centre of Social Technologies Garant
- Serbia**  
Foundation Step Forward  
Reconstruction Women's Fund
- Slovakia**  
Bardejov Community Foundation

- South Africa**  
Healthy City Community Foundation  
Nitra Community Foundation
- Tanzania**  
Africa Philanthropy Network  
Foundation for Civil Society  
Tanzania Association of Microfinance Institutions (TAMFI)
- Thailand**  
EcoThailand Foundation
- Uganda**  
Civil Collective  
Kabale Municipality Development Foundation  
Twerwaneho Listeners Club
- Ukraine**  
Moloda Gromada

- United Kingdom**  
South Sinai Foundation
- Venezuela**  
A.C. Consorcio Desarrollo y Justicia  
Asociación Civil Generación Activa Venezuela
- Zimbabwe**  
Community Foundation for the Western Region of Zimbabwe  
Uluntu Community Foundation

## Grants in the spotlight

The following stories offer snapshots of how our community philanthropy partners around the world responded to the pandemic with the support of GFCF COVID-19 grants.



### Mobilizing local resources (and spreading joy) in Romania

All over the world COVID-19 further exposed and deepened social and economic inequalities, with marginalized groups often being disproportionately impacted by lockdowns. The Bucharest Community Foundation partnered with ING Bank to set up an emergency fund for vulnerable communities across the country which enabled ING clients to give via a mobile banking platform. Within just seven weeks, more than €175,000 (approximately £158,000) had been raised, including €75,255 (approximately £68,000) from 4,291 local donors giving €15 (£13.50) on average. Working closely with 17 community foundations across Romania to identify the most urgent needs, more than 10,800 people in 22 counties received hygiene kits, medical packages and warm meals. On a lighter note, beyond basic supplies, the community foundation also tried to deliver a message of hope and laughter, with volunteers often dropping off care packages dressed up for the occasion in costumes.



### Contextualizing and sharing information in Kenya

The Grassroots Development Initiatives Foundation – Kenya (GRADIF-K) quickly realized that accurate and accessible information would be key to slowing the spread of COVID-19, and focused its efforts on the distribution of user-friendly information, education, and communication materials. Topics covered included prevention measures, transmission methods and where to seek support. To make the information as accessible as possible, some materials – particularly the more dense texts produced by the Ministry of Health – were translated into Kiswahili and other local languages. A series of audio-visual materials, including songs, parables and poems were also produced, to bring the information to life. Materials were distributed directly to 4,600 households, and were also placed in strategic locations, such as markets, religious venues and schools.

## Developing a circular economy in Costa Rica



Since the 1990's, 90% of the local economy of Monteverde, Costa Rica had revolved around tourism. The fragility of the local economy was exposed by COVID-19, which left many in the community without work. Against this backdrop of disruption, the Monteverde

Community Fund found itself playing a critical role. The Fund provided emergency relief and micro-grants, and also set up a food bank stocked with locally produced food, enabling local farmers to continue their work. In addition to providing immediate relief, the Fund was also one of the driving forces behind Enlace (which in Spanish means to intertwine, or lace together): a new initiative focused on improving the overall well-being of Monteverde as a community during the pandemic. Using the framing of the circular economy, Enlace introduced a new local digital currency – "Verdes" – which could be earned in various ways (by participating in environmental actions, volunteering in the community and enrolling in continuous learning classes, for example) and spent in others (the local farmers' market, a recycling shop and an online store). In short, at a time when cash was in short supply, Verdes offered a way for Monteverde residents to barter and trade locally produced products and services.

## Engaging marginalized communities in India

The Solidarity Foundation in India supports sex workers and gender and sexual minorities who regularly face stigmatization, and even criminalization, due to social taboos. COVID-19 only heightened the challenges faced by these communities with sex workers losing livelihoods, members of the LGBTQIA+ community experiencing difficulties accessing medical care, overt and covert discrimination increasing and a heightened sense of isolation and loneliness developing due to lockdowns. Over the course of the pandemic, the Solidarity Foundation provided emergency assistance (in the form of dry rations, medicine, rent support etc.) to more than 9,000 community members, with decisions around who would receive support being taken by the communities themselves. The work of the Solidarity Foundation is grounded in core values around dignity, equity and justice. During all of this, foundation staff themselves became acutely aware of the dangers of both the "thrill of relief" and the "tyranny of the urgent." They insisted on recommitting to their values, and holding themselves to account as they navigated the complex circumstances presented by COVID-19.



## Documenting generosity in Uganda



In the wake of the first COVID-19 lockdown in Uganda, CivSource Africa started documenting a new trend that they couldn't help but notice: Ugandans were giving in droves to support efforts to stem the pandemic. A lot of the giving that occurred during lockdown happened in small

communities, among and between neighbours and at the family level, far away from the glare of the media. What began as a collection of a few stories quickly morphed into four volumes entitled *Generosity during the time of COVID*, which recognized and celebrated giving of all kinds (no matter how modest). Not only do these reports record a snapshot in time, but they also point to a broader "fabric of giving" that exists in Uganda. The reports begin to explore whether giving is supported in Uganda: is there adequate infrastructure upon which to build more enduring and collectivized philanthropy in the country? And can this moment of disruption posed by COVID-19 be used to build that lasting framework? (This grant was made during the GFCF's 2019/2020 financial year, though the bulk of the work was carried out over the 2020 calendar year.)

# 2 Key outcomes in 2020/2021

## Connecting the field and growing the evidence base for people-led development

Various plans and activities for 2020 and beyond needed to be revisited, re-thought or abandoned in the light of COVID-19. However, the pandemic provided even more impetus to our work around connecting the field, as partners around the world faced the new realities of lockdowns and working from home, and risked feeling isolated or alone in their work. In the same way, never has the need for building the evidence base – and the case – for people-led development been more critical, as local actors around the world found themselves at the centre of pandemic response in their communities. Some highlights of our work around connecting the field and strengthening the evidence base are featured below.

### Connecting the field through (virtual) convenings

#### Informal coffee and tea sessions

From March to June 2020 we organized eight informal online “coffee and tea” sessions to bring partners together as we all dealt with the new realities of working in a pandemic. There was no formal agenda: partners were invited to share their experiences, fears, anxieties and hopes. Some of the calls were joined by as few as five participants, while some had as many as 30. These sessions offered a safe space for peers to listen and to share and included powerful moments of support and solidarity.

#### Community philanthropy’s response to COVID-19

Over the summer of 2020, we ran a survey of all GFCF grant partners to explore their responses to the pandemic. What did these look like in practice, what challenges were organizations facing, and how could the GFCF be most supportive in this difficult moment? Common themes from across the global network emerged from the survey, which will be featured in partner-led learning sessions over 2021 and beyond. The first of these sessions was held in March 2021, and focused on *Building local philanthropy against the backdrop of COVID-19*. This was led by the Bucharest Community Foundation (Romania), Dalia Association (Palestine) and Tewa (Nepal).



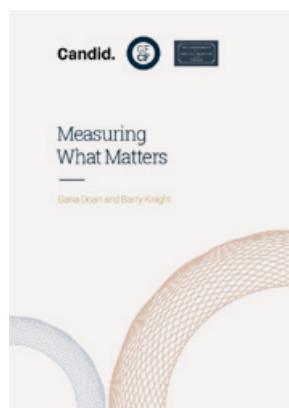
#### Measuring what matters

In November and December 2020, we organized two webinars exploring the paper *Measuring what matters* (see page 13 for further background). The purpose of these discussions was to begin identifying more meaningful approaches to organizational learning and accountability, and to start to bridge the gap between what people working at the local level see and feel is important, and the kind of information that different funders often require. The November session brought together community philanthropy practitioners and civil society actors from around the world, while the December webinar was for funders only. Practitioners from the Charities Aid Foundation Russia, Kenya Community Development Foundation and Zambian Governance Foundation shared their experiences across the two webinars.



## Growing the evidence base

**In cooperation with partners from around the world, we published two papers aimed at growing the evidence base for community philanthropy and people-led development:**



*Measuring what matters:*  
This paper, written by Dana Doan and Barry Knight and published in cooperation with Candid and Philanthropy for Social Justice and Peace, is designed to advance conversations about measurement (see [page 12](#) for further background).

Over a two-year period 130

community philanthropy and civil society organizations participated in a process of dialogue and consultation that informed the paper. These conversations have resulted in an increased understanding of the challenges involved in measurement and, at the same time, have surfaced promising areas for further exploration. The consultations have also started to point towards some guiding principles for any system of measurement that may be more useful and meaningful for local actors and their constituents. This paper is [also available in Portuguese](#).



*What does it mean to be community-led? Community leaders' perspectives on principles, practices and impacts:*

As part of its mission to make it easier for funders to identify, support, and strengthen community-led approaches, GlobalGiving

engaged the GFCF in an action learning initiative aimed at defining “community-led” from the perspective of community. During 2020, we – along with research partners in India, Mexico, Nepal, Russia, Vietnam and Zambia – conducted participatory, practitioner-led research to explore what community-led approaches look like in practice, gather evidence of their long-term impact and discover how funder practices promote or inhibit these approaches.

Reflecting on her experience of participating in the project as one of the research partners, Shubha Chacko of the Solidarity Foundation in India emphasized the value that Southern organizations can bring as research partners. “We are not seen as intellectual beings but rather as people who can ‘run around,’” she observed. “The theories will come from the North, and our role is merely to implement because that’s all we can do. I think this was a good turn of events, to see us producing this knowledge together, not just as heads of organizations but together with grassroots community leaders.”

GFCF Executive Director Jenny Hodgson spoke on a December 2020 webinar hosted by GlobalGiving that launched the report to their global network of partners. A few days later, along with the Zambian Governance Foundation, we also co-hosted the national launch of the report in Zambia.

# 3 Key outcomes in 2020/2021

## Building a global movement to #ShiftThePower

**As lockdowns were imposed around the world and numerous international organizations repatriated staff, it was local and national NGOs that were at the forefront of community response to COVID-19. They found themselves playing critical roles in supporting communities as the various effects of the pandemic – health, social, economic etc. – were felt. Our work with allies to continue building a global movement to #ShiftThePower, drawing attention to the essential roles played by local philanthropic actors and the need for these to be better recognized and resourced, therefore took on even more urgency during the pandemic. We developed new relationships with several donors which we are particularly excited about, and which are mentioned on the following page.**

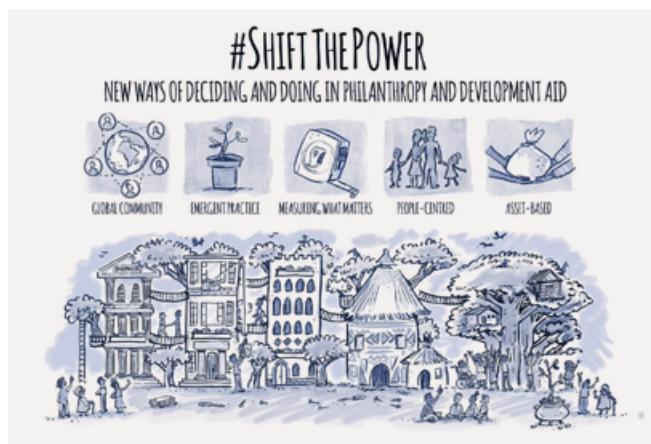
### “Accelerate your commitments” open letter

In April 2020, as COVID-19 started to take hold across the Global South, we co-wrote an open letter to donors with CIVICUS and the Network for Empowered Aid Response (NEAR). Entitled “Accelerate your commitments” during COVID-19 the letter originally appeared on Devex, and highlighted data which showed that less than 1% of total official development assistance reached local and national organizations in the Global South. The letter urged donors to prioritize funding to national and local actors, so they could lead timely, appropriate and locally

rooted responses to the pandemic. The letter made the case that it was these actors, who were already in place, that were best able to respond to COVID-19 and its effects, though they would need appropriate resourcing in order to play this essential role.

### A platform to #ShiftThePower

In June 2020, we held four brainstorming calls with almost 50 allies from the global #ShiftThePower movement. Conversations touched on how we could better organize ourselves during the pandemic, and what might be possible given the new ways of working we were all facing. The idea of creating a more structured and organized #ShiftThePower “platform” that could support and advance our emerging movement was discussed.



The platform, which is set to launch in mid-2021, will be an online space for proponents of people-led development to share and deepen practice, make connections and experiment together, and join voices together in order to advocate collectively for a more equitable and effective system. The focus will be on strengthening and consolidating new ways of working, showing that another way is possible. Humanity United has provided funding to support the development of this work.

### Influencing to #ShiftThePower

Over October and November 2020, working with external consultants Deborah Doane and Jennie Richmond, we organized two sets of workshops on Influencing to #ShiftThePower. Attracting nearly 40 participants from across our network, the workshops aimed to take advantage of the opportunity of sorts that COVID-19 presented, in that the critical role of local actors was becoming more recognized. Four donors – representing public and private institutions – provided insights during the sessions and offered their thoughts as to what influencing strategies may be most effective in encouraging change at the individual and organizational levels.

## Working with donors

**We are excited to announce new partnerships and projects with several donors, who are keen to explore community philanthropy as a strategy, and as a practice for fostering community-led development and building resilience and local ownership. Funders have a critical role to play in helping to move community philanthropy from the margins to the mainstream, as a critical dimension of durable, people-led development.**

### **Giving for Change: A new partnership with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

“Giving for Change” is a five-year, €24 million (approximately £21.5 million) programme that will be implemented in Brazil, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Palestine and Uganda. It is led by a consortium of four organizations: the Africa Philanthropy Network, Kenya Community Development Foundation, the GFCF and Wilde Ganzen. The aim of Giving for Change – which is funded under the Dutch government’s “Power of Voices” programme – is to foster local giving as an expression of voice, civic participation, solidarity and dissent. The programme will build evidence around new thinking, approaches and leadership that support community philanthropy development. It will further promote community philanthropy as a strategy for achieving community-led development by increasing local ownership, buy-in and the claiming of rights, and by



challenging the notion that development is something that is “done to” communities by external actors.

“We’re really excited to see a bi-lateral donor investing such significant sums – and signaling such a clear understanding of the importance of local power and potential” noted GFCF Executive Director, Jenny Hodgson, when the programme launched in January 2021.

### **European Union explores community philanthropy as a strategy for responding to COVID-19**

We were awarded a two-year grant from the European Union (EU) to support community philanthropy’s role in strengthening civil society’s response to COVID-19. The €1 million project (approximately £900,000, of which the EU contribution comprises €800,000, or £725,000) will focus on fostering and growing community philanthropy as a specific development strategy in less developed countries, particularly in Africa. With the project, we will be directing grant funds to local partners, to address the immediate health, social and economic impacts of COVID-19 and to help shape longer-term community-wide processes aimed at building back better.

Marlene Holzner, Head of Unit of Local Authorities, Civil Society Organisations and Foundations at the EU commented: “The EU is committed to accelerating the localization agenda and ensuring that more funds go



directly to local groups, especially during these times of COVID-19. However, local organizations that can help make that happen often lie beyond the radar and reach of large donors. Through this grant to the GFCF, which has a strong network of partners around the world, and which is playing an important role in promoting community philanthropy as a durable alternative to traditional models of donor funding, we look forward to exploring and supporting this important and growing eco-system of actors and practice.”

### **Innovation for localization – building bridges**

With support from the Network for Empowered Aid Response (NEAR) and Save the Children Denmark we are working with partners in Somalia and West Africa as part of the “Innovation for localization – building bridges” project. This work is testing and learning from new approaches to development financing. It is grounded in a vision of a transformed system, which emphasizes the importance of local resources, ownership and agency, and where external funding compliments and builds on – rather than displaces or undermines – existing capacities and systems.

# Our finances

## Global Fund for Community Foundations

### A company limited by guarantee

Statement of financial activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 March 2021

	2021 total £	2020 total £
<b>Incoming resources</b>		
Donations and grants	1,640,251	1,008,239
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>1,640,251</b>	<b>1,008,239</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>		
Administration costs	3,143	3,987
Audit fees	4,320	4,920
Bank charges	2,895	4,693
Board expenses	(1,040)	11,960
Communications and website costs	15,037	13,046
Consultancy fees – Grants and learning co-ordinator	85,497	106,859
Consultancy fees – International	102,185	129,657
Depreciation of FF and equipment	550	550
Exchange variations	129,380	(67,607)
Grants disbursed: Partner Conferences and Convenings	–	12,031
Grants disbursed: COVID-19	878,746	–
Grants disbursed: Refugees	–	62,395
Grants disbursed: Research	19,136	26,915
Grants disbursed: Institutional Development	363,208	266,210
Grants disbursed: Migration and Inclusion	–	6,956
Legal and professional fees	363	216
Meeting costs	–	109,818
Membership and subscription fees	10,300	12,598
Office and general expenses	7,771	4,227
Staff costs	102,187	104,138
Staff medical insurance	–	641
Staff pension costs	5,007	5,007
Technical support costs	32	318
Transfers to GFCF (South Africa) office costs	32,000	56,000
Travel costs – consultants	–	6,702
Travel costs – GFCF partners	–	37,033
Travel costs – staff	(1,563)	23,761
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>1,759,154</b>	<b>943,031</b>



## The Global Fund for Community Foundations

### A company limited by guarantee

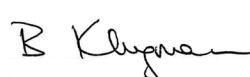
Balance sheet as at 31 March 2021

	2021 £	£	2020 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>				
Tangible assets		1,242		1,792
<b>Current assets</b>				
Debtors	38,164		39,949	
Cash at bank and in hand	1,506,451		1,443,458	
	<b>1,544,615</b>		<b>1,483,407</b>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(1,518,672)		(1,339,111)	
Net current assets		25,943		144,296
<b>Net assets</b>		27,185		146,088
<b>Funds</b>				
Restricted funds		(14,151)		105,817
Unrestricted funds		41,336		40,271
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>27,185</b>		<b>146,088</b>

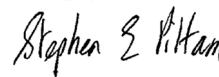
The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board on 1 November 2021 and signed on its behalf by



Barbara Klugman  
Director



Stephen Pittam  
Director

### COVID-19 Impact

COVID-19 is having a devastating impact on communities around the world and the GFCF is responding by offering additional grants to community foundations building resilience in their localities. Additional income has been sought and gained from some of our key funders to support this work. This has resulted in the Directors making an assessment that there will be a minimal negative impact on the running of the GFCF over the next financial year (2021/2022) as a result of the pandemic.

# Our legal and administrative information

## Our board

The GFCF was registered as an independent charity in Northern Ireland and South Africa in 2009 and 2010, respectively. It has two legally constituted boards. The founding board is legally constituted in the U.K. It was the founding organizational member of the South African board and a sub-set of U.K. board members constitute the South African board. Board members (Directors) are nominated for a three-year period, with the possibility of two renewals. Nominations are made and approved by current Directors.

The board is responsible for guiding the GFCF's programmes and operations. Specifically, the Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

We currently have an international board of individuals highly experienced in the fields of community philanthropy and social development. For the 2020/2021 period Directors included:

- Robert Ian Bird (Canada) GFCF Chair as from 1st February 2021
- Rita Thapa, Founder of Tewa – the Nepal Women's Fund (Nepal) GFCF Chair up until 1st February 2021, resigned from GFCF board 12th June 2021
- Stephen Pittam (U.K.) GFCF Treasurer
- Amitabh Behar, Oxfam India (India)
- Bagyendera Hope Chigudu, Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre and Network (Zimbabwe) Resigned from GFCF board 12th March 2021
- Laura Garcia, Global Greengrants Fund (U.S.) Appointed to GFCF board on 3rd February 2021
- Barbara Jane Klugman (South Africa)
- Bharat Mehta (U.K.) Appointed to GFCF board on 29th September 2021
- Clotilde Perez-Bode Dedecker, Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo (U.S.)

The board is governed by the GFCF Governance Manual, which was adopted in May 2015 and was developed in compliance with its statutes of registration in Southern Africa and Northern Ireland:

- Articles of Association (amended by special resolution passed on 14 November 2009) of the Global Fund for Community Foundation, Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a share capital, Companies (Northern Ireland) Orders 1986 to 1990.
- Memorandum of Incorporation of a Non-Profit Company without members known as Global Fund for Community Foundations (South Africa) (RF) – NPC, Registration Number: 2010/000806/08 (Companies and Intellectual Property Commission, Republic of South Africa, The Companies Act No. 71 of 2008, as amended).

## Safeguarding Policy

The GFCF strives to foster a working environment free of any kind of intimidation, aggression or violence, and which upholds the highest standards of operations.

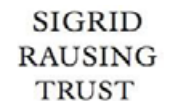
As such, and in response to various instances of abuse and malpractice from development actors that surfaced over 2017, in 2018 we published a Safeguarding Policy and updated our Whistle-Blower Policy, to reiterate our commitment to these ideals.

As outlined in the policy, we as an organization strive to ensure that our working atmosphere is a safe and welcoming one, and one in which respect between all colleagues is fostered, regardless of gender expression, race, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, state of health, or political leaning. This applies to all staff, board members, temporary personnel, consultants and others who carry out work on behalf of the GFCF. In terms of safeguarding, the GFCF treats seriously any allegations of exploitation or abuse. This may include but is not limited to: sexual exploitation and abuse; child exploitation and abuse; bullying and harassment; and, malpractice in the workplace.

For the period covered by this report, the GFCF complied with all requirements laid out in its Staff Manual and Whistle-Blower Policy. All staff reviewed these documents again in January 2021, as part of an annual practice and commitment to upholding the values laid out therein. No suspected or actual integrity violations were reported in the period covered by this Annual Report.

## Our funders

We are grateful for the ongoing financial support of partner foundations and donor organizations. Funders for the period include: ADESO – African Development Solutions, anonymous donor, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, CIVICUS, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs via Wilde Ganzen, European Union, Facebook, Fondation Assistance Internationale, Foundation for a Just Society, Fund for Global Human Rights, GlobalGiving, Humanity United, Inter-American Foundation, Open Society Initiative for Europe, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and the Sigrid Rausing Trust.



## Our public benefit statement

The GFCF board confirms that they have complied with their duty under section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 with regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and that the public benefit requirement has informed the activities of the GFCF for the period reflected in this Annual Report.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year the Directors have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and have provided a benefit to the beneficiaries. The Directors believe that all the work of the GFCF is for the public benefit, as defined in law.

In evaluating public benefit the board notes that while individuals, who work for partner organizations, may indirectly benefit from participating in capacity building activities (including workshops and events) all activities are designed to help strengthen individual organizations.

This Annual Report and financial statement for the period 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021 are approved by the board.

## References and administrative details

### Registered charity name

Global Fund for  
Community Foundations

### Commonly used acronym

GFCF

### Northern Ireland charity number

NIC101135

### Company registration number

NI073343

### Registered office and operational address in the U.K.

The Mount,  
2 Woodstock Link,  
Belfast BT6 8DD,  
Northern Ireland, U.K.

### Registered office and operational address in South Africa

158 Jan Smuts Avenue,  
Rosebank,  
Johannesburg 2196,  
South Africa

### Auditors

McGroarty, McCafferty  
and Company,  
2 Carlisle Terrace,  
Derry BT48 6JX,  
Northern Ireland, U.K.

### Bank

HSBC,  
25–29 Royal Avenue,  
Belfast BT1 1FB,  
Northern Ireland, U.K.

### Solicitors

Jennifer E. A. Ebbage,  
Edwards & Co Solicitors,  
28 Hill Street,  
Belfast BT1 2LA,  
Northern Ireland, U.K.