Annual Report

1 April 2021 - 31 March 2022





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Cover images captions (Clockwise starting from top left): 1. Waqfeyat Al-Maadi Community Foundation, Egypt 2. Timişoara Community Foundation, Romania 3. Fundação Micaia, Mozambique 4. Haiti Community Foundation





Ferencváros Community Foundation, Hungary

From the GFCF Chair

As I reflect on this latest Annual Report, it very much feels as though the "VUCA world" is upon us. Volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity – in the form of multiple, urgent, interconnected crises – now define the times in which we are living and require new ways of thinking and working.

In the first half of 2021, many of the GFCF's community philanthropy partners around the world were still very much in "COVID-19 response mode." In many countries, subsequent waves of the virus meant that the pandemic was still being experienced as a public health crisis. Our partners continued to provide emergency support to vulnerable groups. As vaccines became more widely available, many played a role in raising awareness around vaccination programmes and their availability.

In other parts of the world, where the immediate health impacts of the virus were no longer such an urgent priority, but where the long-term social and economic effects of the pandemic continued to make themselves felt, community philanthropy partners began to consider how best to support their communities over the longer-term. This took on a range of forms, whether through rebuilding livelihoods and re-imagining community resilience, or consolidating new alliances and systems of solidarity that had emerged during COVID-19. The pandemic had exposed deeper issues of inequality within and among particular communities (women and girls, Roma, LGBTQI groups, to name a few), and many of our partners renewed or embarked on new efforts to address issues of equity and inclusion in the context of their work.



Haiti Community Foundation



Stara Zagora Community Foundation, Bulgaria

Community Development Foundation Western Cape, South Africa

As we entered 2022, COVID-19 finally seemed to be in retreat. Even if the world was far from being back to any kind of "normal", a temporary reprieve from the collective trauma and massive social, economic and disruption of the pandemic finally seemed possible. However, that breathing space did not last long when, on 24 February, Russia invaded Ukraine. As millions fled to safety in neighbouring countries, GFCF partners in the region – many themselves still reeling from demands placed on them by their COVID-19 response work – were again quick to act, providing direct relief to refugees in the form of food, accommodation, transport and psycho-social support, and launching local fundraising efforts to support this work. Fortunately, as the GFCF, we were in a position to be able to respond quickly, using our small pot of unrestricted funding to make a series of rapid grants to partners in Ukraine and the wider region within the first few days and weeks of the war.

Beyond COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine, the world has continued to face a daunting array of challenges including the climate emergency, multiple humanitarian crises and the resurgence of authoritarianism. As one of our Latin American partners commented at an online meeting we organized to reflect on community philanthropy's response to COVID-19: "Disruption is our way of life – the pandemic was just another thing we had to face."

At the GFCF, we have been consistently motivated and inspired by the actions of our partners around the world who have, time and time again, stepped forward to support their communities in these crisis-ridden and uncertain times. At the same time, however, we can't help ask ourselves — with a growing sense of frustration — when these kinds of community-proximate, trusted, bridge-building organizations, with deep connections into the communities they serve, will finally receive the recognition and international donor support they deserve. At a time when the impetus within the international development system to shift power and resources closer to the ground is greater than ever, along with the growing acknowledgement that development work is more effective, more durable and more equitable when it is driven and shaped from the ground-up, we still see very little international funding (apart from some notable exceptions) reaching our partners.



National Network of Local Philanthropy Development, Ukraine



Făgăraș County Community Foundation, Romania



Timișoara Community Foundation, Romania

Despite the commitments made by major donors under the localization agenda, there is still much work to be done to make this a reality and the GFCF's work to #ShiftThePower together with other allies and networks – is more relevant than ever. The year saw the launch of the #ShiftThePower "Treehouse", a standalone website aimed at providing a broader and more inclusive platform and community for both established partners and other newer allies and fellow travelers who believe that "another way is possible." Donor priorities can often change, as funders move on to the latest thing. Transforming aid, however, must be a longterm effort, not a flash in the pan event that falls by the wayside. In that sense, the GFCF remains committed to keeping #ShiftThePower alive and loud, a space and conversation inspired by the idea of a "good society", that is as much about building the system we want, and what that might require from all of us, as it is about demanding change from others.

Our own particular role at the GFCF continues to be to shine a light on the growing field and practice of community philanthropy - that dignifies and harnesses community assets as an expression of voice, agency and power - and to insist on its recognition by others. External funding certainly still has a critical role to play, but its impact is much greater when money lands on communities that are strong, trusting and organized, and where they come to the table as co-investors rather than "beneficiaries." I invite you to read some of the highlights of our work from the past year in this Annual Report.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our funders and network allies who support us and our work, and to acknowledge that the credit must go to our partners who, every day, are doing the real work in pursuit of more just, inclusive communities that respect the rights of all those who live in them.



Ian Bird Chair, GFCF



Zambian Governance 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 solely 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.





Rawa Creative Palestinian Communities Fund, Credit Ain Media



Covasna Community Foundation, Romania

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

- a) To support the building of institutional capacity among community foundations and community philanthropy organizations at the local level.
- b) To strengthen the field of community philanthropy across the world, focusing on deepening practice, fostering thought leadership and enhancing the voice and identity of the field.
- c) To inform and influence the relationship between the community philanthropy field and policy makers, international development agencies and the broader philanthropic sector.





Key outcomes in 2021/2022



CivSource Africa, Uganda

1. Grants to community philanthropy organizations

Grants and learning programmes



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.

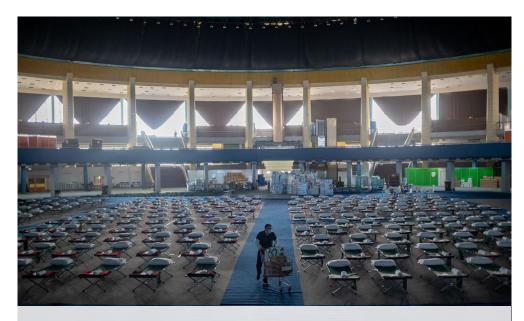
We made 57 grants totalling £1,180,741 to 50 community philanthropy organizations in 27 countries.



Uluntu Community Foundation, Zimbabwe

COVID-19

We continued to support our partners in the context of COVID-19. In some parts of the world, community philanthropy organizations continued to provide urgent relief to communities during subsequent COVID-19 waves. Activities included the direct provision of emergency aid to vulnerable and marginalized groups, awareness raising around vaccine programmes and their availability, as well as small grants programmes to support grassroots groups. Many of our partners were also thinking more long-term, beyond the pandemic. GFCF grants supported our partners in building long-term resilience in their communities, strengthening their own abilities to react to future crises, and consolidating new forms of solidarity that emerged during the pandemic.



Bucharest Community Foundation, Romania



Ukraine response

In February and March 2022, in response to the war in Ukraine, we made one grant to the GFCF's long-term partner in Ukraine (Moloda Gromada). We also made a series of rapid grants to community philanthropy partners in Romania, Hungary and Slovakia to support their response to the humanitarian crisis caused by the war and the mass flight of people from Ukraine to neighbouring countries. Activities ranged from providing direct relief to refugees from Ukraine in the form of food and accommodation, to organizing psycho-social support addressing the trauma and impacts of the conflict, arranging transportation to other countries and launching local fundraising campaigns. In some cases, GFCF grants covered core operational costs so that organizations could focus on their response to the crisis.

Research

A key objective of the GFCF is to grow the evidence base for community philanthropy and #ShiftThePower more widely. In early 2022, we launched an action research grant programme exploring the framing of the "good society" or "the civil society we want" in different contexts and communities (see page 20 for more background information on these research grants).

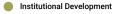
Conferences and convenings

These grants are aimed at supporting our partners as leaders, convenors and advocates for community philanthropy in national and global spaces. They include support for partner-led national and regional events, as well as participation in relevant conferences and other peer-learning opportunities.

Grants distribution

The two charts below both represent distribution in terms of total grant funds disbursed.

Grants distribution by programme

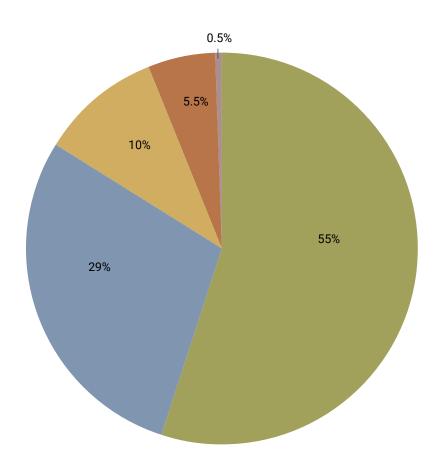


COVID 19

Ukraine Response

Research

Conferences and Convenings



Grants distribution by geography

Sub-Saharan Africa

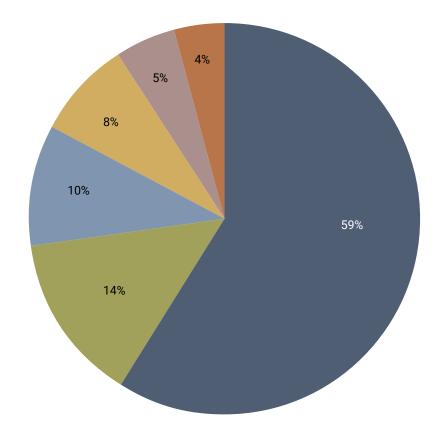
Europe and Central Asia

South Asia

Latin America and the Caribbean

Middle East North Africa

East Pacific



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 Institutional Development

COVID 19

Ukraine Response

Research

Conferences and Convenings

Bolivia

Brazil

Fundación Semilla

Brazil

Fundo Agbara Tabôa Fortalecimento Comunitário

Bulgaria

Bulgarian Fund for Women

Burkina Faso

Initiative Pananetugri pour le Bien-être de la Femme x2

Costa Rica

Kosovo

Bulgaria

Morocco

Egypt

Ghana DCR

Burkina Faso

0

Guanacaste Community Fund Monteverde Community Fund

Egypt

Waqfeyat al Maadi Community Foundation

Ghana

STAR Ghana Foundation STAR Ghana Foundation West Africa Civil Society Institute

Hungary

Roots and Wings Foundation

India

Togo O

Zambia

Ukraine

Romania

Slovakia

Hungary

0

ECONET Foundation for Social

Transformation Gramin Evam Nagar Viakas Parishad

Keystone Foundation x2

Kenya

East Africa Philanthropy Network Kenya Community Development Foundation

Mozambique Kilimani Project Foundation Resources Oriented **Development Initiatives** UHAI EASHRI

Nepal

Nagarik Aawaz Tewa

Kosovo

Forum for Civic Initiatives

Mexico

Amigos de San Cristóbal

Morocco

Tamkeen Community Foundation for Human Development

Tamkeen Community Foundation for Human Development

Fundação Micaia Fundação Micaia

Slovakia Healthy City Community Foundation

Somalia

Uganda

Tanzania

DR

Mozambique

South Africa

Philippines

SPNKK

Romania

Foundation

Foundation

Foundation

Foundation

Slovakia

Preparedness

Centre for Disaster

Bucharest Community

Covasna Community

Oradea Community

Timișoara Community

Carpathian Foundation -

Iași Community Foundation

DDCCCR

Kenya DDDD

Somalia Bulsho Fund

India

Nepal D C

DCCCC

South Africa

Community Development Foundation Western Cape Social Change Assistance Trust x2

Tanzania

Tanzania Association of Microfinance Institutions Thubutu Africa Initiatives

Thailand

EcoThailand Foundation

XOESE, Le Fonds pour les Femmes Francophones

Uganda

Thailand C

Vietnam

Civil Collective CivSource Africa

CivSource Africa

Kabale Municipality Development Foundation

Taala Foundation Twerwaneho Listeners Club

Ukraine Moloda Gromada

Vietnam

LIN Centre for Community Development

Zambia

Zambian Governance Foundation



Grants in the spotlight

Institutional development

Doing it differently in Somalia

The Bulsho Fund emerged from the "Innovation for localization – building bridges" project (described on page 24). "Bulsho" is a Somali word that means community or society, and the new Fund's slogan, "Iskutashi iyo Iskutiirsanaan", means self-reliance and interdependence. The emergence of the Fund in Somalia, a country that has long been one of the top recipients of external development aid, is particularly significant. As a result of this aid being primarily short-term and top-down, communities across Somalia have consistently been excluded from the decision-making that most affects them. Communal safety nets have been eroded.

The Bulsho Fund seeks to address these issues by not only serving as a vehicle through which international funding can be better directed to local civil society actors, but also by emphasizing and seeking to grow a constituency of local donors. By embedding local participation, engagement and accountability to the communities it serves, and holding human-centred design processes at its core, the Bulsho Fund will offer an exciting example of how development can be re-imagined in Somalia. GFCF grant funds supported the Fund's first round of grantmaking, as well as internal capacity strengthening as it got up and running.



Eco Thailand Foundation

COVID-19

Supporting a community-driven vision for the Thai Gulf

Prior to COVID-19, 80% of the economy in the Thai Gulf was dependent on tourism. When borders closed and domestic travel was made near impossible, the fragility of the Thai Gulf's local economy was exposed. The EcoThailand Foundation's initial pandemic response centred on the provision of emergency food aid by (amongst other actions) supporting the establishment of community-driven and resourced gardens. These gardens have slowly transitioned away from emergency food production, instead becoming educational show gardens.

There is a general consensus amongst local communities and businesses that the Thai Gulf islands may not rapidly return to its former tourism base – or whether such a return to mass tourism is even desirable. However, there is wide interest in considering new approaches to managing tourism in ways that would better serve local interests. With a GFCF grant, EcoThailand and its wider network brought together similar, yet disconnected, initiatives around a community-driven vision for the future: an eco-community tourism network in the Thai Gulf. The community gardens will be a key part of this. EcoThailand will work with groups to improve their connections, infrastructure and capabilities, enabling these groups to be self-sustaining and: "To transition forward to a range of environmental and community-based tourism venues and enterprises, so securing a longer-term future for the projects and their community participants." A portion of GFCF grant funds was used for grantmaking to local groups to kick-start this work.

Ukraine response

Mobilizing local resources and people in support of Ukraine

Timiş County is in Western Romania, and shares borders with Hungary and Serbia. As such, it became a significant transit route – and in some cases final destination – for refugees from Ukraine when the war broke out. By 14 March 2022 it was estimated that 420,000 people from Ukraine had already transited to Western Europe via Romania, with approximately 80,000 remaining in Romania.

To respond to the humanitarian crisis on its doorstep, on 26 February 2022 Romania's Timişoara Community Foundation – in collaboration with an alliance of 30+ different civil society organizations – launched the fundraising campaign "Timişoara for Ukraine." Funds raised were sent to Timişoara's twin city, Chernivtsi, in Western Ukraine, and were also used to support the needs of refugees in Timiş. By 15 March, the campaign had raised US \$106,000

(approximately £81,340) from 678 donors, including 20 local companies. The foundation found itself playing multiple roles: managing the campaign's bank account; organizing contracts with corporate donors; and, ensuring transparent communications around the use of funds raised. All of this while also assisting in the response happening on the ground.

An immediate challenge was that all funds raised through the campaign were channelled directly back into humanitarian relief, without any percentage being drawn by the organizations behind the campaign. GFCF grant funds were therefore requested to cover a portion of the organization's staff and operational costs for a period of six months. With this cushion, the foundation felt it could dedicate more time and energy to fundraising for Ukraine and refugees fleeing war. This included through the organization of "Timotion", its most significant annual fundraising event that encourages community members to run for good causes. A portion of GFCF grant funds also supported a small grants programme to support local civil society's immediate humanitarian response.



2. Connecting the field and strengthening the evidence base for people-led development

COVID-19 further fuelled our work around connecting the field, as partners around the world largely continued working remotely. Although the absence of face-to-face gatherings began to feel like the "new normal", the risk of feeling isolated or alone was ever present. In the same way, the need for building the evidence base - and the case - for people-led development remained critical. The pandemic clearly illustrated that, in times of disruption and crisis, it is local systems and relationships that matter. Some highlights of our work around connecting the field and strengthening the evidence base are featured below.

Connecting the field through (virtual) convenings

Community philanthropy in the context of COVID-19

In 2020 and 2021, we conducted surveys of all GFCF grant partners to explore their responses to the pandemic. What did this look like in practice, what challenges were organizations facing, and how could the GFCF be most supportive in challenging times? Common themes from across our global network emerged from the surveys. Some of these specifically related to COVID-19 response, while others considered the role community philanthropy can play longerterm in building resilient and inclusive communities. These themes were featured in a series of partner-led learning sessions over 2021, including:



Covasna Community Foundation, Romania

Engaging marginalized and minority groups during COVID-19: The pandemic compounded the marginalization and exclusion already felt by many minority groups. This session examined the critical role that local actors – that already have a level of public trust and local legitimacy - can play in building bridges, connections and trust within and between different parts of the community, particularly with an eye on vulnerable groups. Contributions from GFCF partners based in India, Romania and Slovakia underlined the importance of demonstrating how inclusive communities can be more effective and happier places for everyone.



Fundación Semilla, Bolivia

Localism, livelihoods and circular economies: The role of local foundations in creating opportunities and building more durable communities: As the pandemic took hold around the world many communities began to recognize deep flaws in the economic models upon which their communities were based. They experienced first-hand the consequences of over-reliance on external supply chains or on a single sector. In this session, GFCF partners from Bolivia, Costa Rica and Thailand shared their approaches to addressing food security issues, supporting alternative livelihoods, and creating opportunities in their communities - during COVID-19 but also in the longer-term.



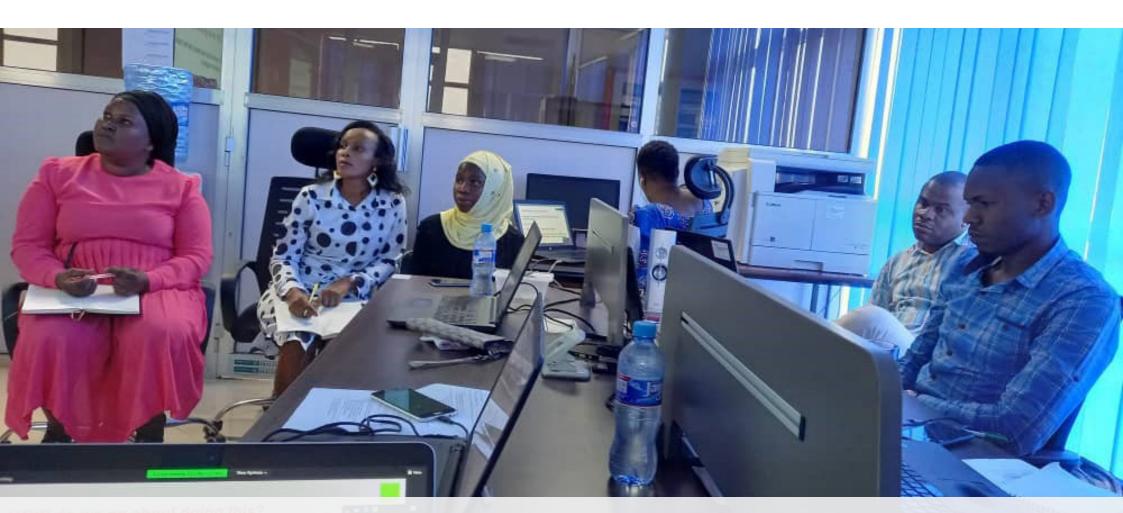
FemFund, Poland

Lost in participation? Why and how meaningful community participation is at the heart of community philanthropy: GFCF partners from Poland, Somalia and the United States took the lead in preparing this session that dove into what community participation looks and feels like to them. The session highlighted that it is relationships, not money, which is the real currency of social change. As such, locally-rooted organizations must take the time and effort to build networks of trust and shared community ownership from the bottom-up – ensuring that community members not only see themselves as being part of a change process, but as leading it.

Complexity University

How can we work together to transform the international humanitarian aid sector from the ground up? We partnered with Complexity University and the START Network around the inaugural edition of the University's Crisis Response and Resilience Lab, which set out to answer this question. The GFCF supported six "teams" from our network (from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia) who participated in the Lab, which ran daily over the course of two weeks in October 2021. The framing of the Lab emphasized local agency and the critical role local actors play in responding to crises. Through a mixture of plenary and individual sessions with "coaches" teams were supported to develop and test solutions to an issue in their community.

Three GFCF staff acted as coaches to individual teams. Eshban Kwesiga said this about the process: "Two weeks of working together intensely produced moments of reflection, excitement, frustration, epiphanies and clarity, as solutions were discussed and tested. It was a learning experience for all of us." Tarisai Jangara was struck by how the Lab flattened power dynamics: "Every team members' contribution brought out the 'untapped creatives' without limitations or focus on professional titles. The course levelled power by having the team work and learn as peers." While Ese Emerhi gained new perspectives: "I am walking away with the words of my co-coach who said: 'When people disagree with you, it means they are thinking. You want thinking people on your team so you can get the best possible solutions. Don't see it as a disagreement, instead see it as an opportunity to learn."





Growing the evidence base

"Sister, brother – or just someone who cares": How Giving Circles celebrate the power of giving and reclaim what it means to be a donor

Our new paper on Giving Circles explores how a simple idea, which involves bringing people together with the sole purpose of giving – and giving together – has been shaped and adapted to fit in different countries and cultures. It draws on a series of conversations with Giving Circle organizers and practitioners from nine countries across the GFCF's network, and examines the growth of the model within a larger global shift towards an appreciation of the power and potential of everyday generosity. Despite the diversity of contexts, of communities, of the specific strategies and purposes behind them, the study shows how, regardless of their location, Giving Circles are about much more than money. They are equally about building connections, trust and understanding between people. Translations of the paper are available in French, Portuguese and Spanish.

We held two launch events in January 2022 to mark the release of the paper. The first launch featured contributions from GFCF community philanthropy partners in Palestine, Russia and South Africa, while the second – co-hosted with the Community Investment Network – shared examples from Brazil and South Africa.



Ferencváros Community Foundation, Hungary



3. Building a global movement to #ShiftThePower

Despite the critical roles that national and local actors have played in responding to disruptions and crises in recent years, these same actors also continue to be regularly overlooked by mainstream philanthropy and development. Our work to build 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 feels more important than ever. Read below for a taste of some of our efforts in this regard, none of which could have been accomplished without our global network of #ShiftThePower allies. We also continued to work with a range of donors who are interested in exploring new ways of deciding and doing, particularly in terms of community philanthropy.

The #ShiftThePower Treehouse

In May 2021 we were excited to launch the new #ShiftThePower Treehouse: the online meeting space for those in the movement. The Treehouse emerged from multiple conversations and consultations that followed our 2019 Pathways to Power Symposium, as well as discussions that took place at the height of COVID-19. The Treehouse – which will be curated with and by members of the movement with operational support from the GFCF – is a

space where different actors who believe in the power of people-led development can connect, share practice, learn from each other, build the movement and be stronger together. It is also a space to join up and amplify the voices and arguments of those from across the broader movement. Humanity United provided funding to support the development of this work.

Strengthening the demand-side of #ShiftThePower

In late 2021 and early 2022 we organized several convenings aimed at mobilizing the demand-side of the #ShiftThePower movement. These conversations considered how we can be more strategic and deliberate about articulating the "ask" from the emergent part of the system. Participants considered what a re-imagined development ecosystem might look like from the perspective of Global South civil society actors and the communities they serve, and discussed recommendations and practical pathways for transformational change. One concrete output from these conversations was a series of action research grants to community philanthropy partners around the world, using the framing of the "good society" or "the civil society we want."



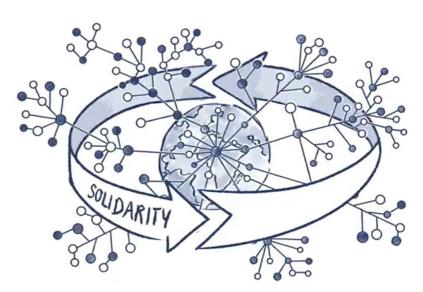
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#ShiftThePower Manifesto for Change campaign

Over the first week of February 2022 we coordinated a social media campaign, sharing cartoons that brought each of the nine #ShiftThePower Manifesto for Change points to life. The cartoons were also made available in French, Portuguese and Spanish. The campaign saw GFCF partners around the world posting twice daily on social media at specific times, and we were delighted by the broad engagement and enthusiasm from our network. Some highlights from the five-day period include:

- 1,250,565 impressions on Twitter, with 817 individual tweets related to the campaign
- GFCF Facebook posts reached 2,271 individual users
- 763 users visited the dedicated page of cartoons on the #ShiftThePower Treehouse

Following the campaign, several GFCF partners reflected on the Manifesto, and why it provides a useful framework for their organizations. Rasha Sansur of the Dalia Association in Palestine commented: "The reason we align with the Manifesto is because it calls for dignity in development by moving away from seeing communities as 'problems to be solved." Some partners appreciate the Manifesto because it provokes self-reflection. Barbara Nöst of the Zambian Governance Foundation offered: "I believe that changing ourselves is the starting point for any change we would like to become a reality. We, as local organizations, need to practice what we preach. We should tap into our non-financial resources much more, and stop looking for external donors and treating them as our saviours."







Working with donors

We continued to work with a range of donors who are keen to explore community philanthropy as a strategy for fostering community-led development. Funders have a significant 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

The Giving for Change programme is a five-year, €24 million (approximately £21.5 million) programme which aims to foster local giving as an expression of voice, civic participation, solidarity and dissent. It is funded under the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affair's "Power of Voices" programme. The GFCF is the lead programme partner around international advocacy and influencing.

As part of this work, over 2021, we featured a series of Q&As on the GFCF website which introduced the lead partners in the Giving for Change Alliance and raise the profile of the global field. Giving for Change partners are based in Brazil (including the Brazil Philanthropy Network for Social Justice and Coordenadoria Ecumênica de Serviço), Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana (including the STAR Ghana Foundation and West Africa Civil Society Institute), Kenya, Mozambique, Palestine and Uganda. The Alliance is led by a consortium of four organizations: the Africa Philanthropy Network, Kenya Community Development Foundation, GFCF and Wilde Ganzen.





Coordenadoria Ecumênica de Serviço (CESE), Brazil



Development Expertise Centre, Ethiopia

In May we helped organize the webinar #ShiftThePower: What power and how far has it shifted? as part of Alliance Magazine's 25th anniversary celebrations. During the session, Graciela Hopstein of the Brazil Philanthropy Network for Social Justice commented that Giving for Change is a bold move from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs as it recognizes: "The potential of communities to organize themselves based on their own resources and assets and the capacities communities already have to solve their own problems."

Also in May, a pair of articles was published in Alliance Magazine. GFCF Executive Director Jenny Hodgson's piece Building local giving is central to shifting power examined a shift in donors' behaviour towards recognizing the power and potential of local resource mobilization, and highlighted the Giving for Change programme as an example of this. In the response Here's how we build local, Alette van Kralingen, Policy Officer at the Department of Social Development, Civil Society and Education at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs commented: "Against a global background of shrinking civic space, Giving for Change will encourage civil society organizations, including and especially human rights organizations, to value and adopt local resource mobilization as a form of constituency building, and as a way to strengthen their position as legitimate champions and defenders of diverse causes...The Giving for Change Alliance will work on addressing (unequal) power relations in the international development sector...It fits well within the trend and discussions to focus development support more and more on local communities "

Later in the year, in October, Jenny Hodgson and Charles Kojo Vandyck of the West Africa Civil Society Institute in Ghana appeared on the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs' The power of voices podcast series. The podcast is directly linked to the Ministry's policy framework for "Strengthening Civil Society." Episodes, featuring quest speakers, explore the meaning and practices of the core concepts of this framework. This episode focused on the #ShiftThePower movement, and the potential roles for international donors in a re-imagined system.

#ShiftThePower: what power and how far has it shifted?









Rasha Sansur, **GFCF**

Irũngũ Houghton, Ese Emerhi, Amnesty

GFCF

Graciela Hopstein, **Brazilian Philanthropy Network for Social Justice**





27 May 2021, 3PM





Innovation for localization - building bridges

This initiative was supported by the NEAR Network and Save the Children Denmark with back funding from Danida. The aim of the project was to develop and test local funding mechanisms in Somalia and Ghana, with the broader purpose of contributing – by demonstration – to efforts within the international humanitarian aid and development sector to transform and localize aid. The role of local resource mobilization as a deliberate strategy to strengthen local participation and ownership and, by doing so, to challenge traditional donor / recipient power dynamics, was a distinctive feature of the work.

As part of the initiative, the GFCF made sub-grants to the STAR Ghana Foundation and West Africa Civil Society Institute for piloting and research. Piloting work highlighted the value of investing in processes at the local level, and of moving at the speed of trust. It also challenged myths around the supposed lack of "capacity" of Global South actors and highlighted the value and importance of the range of assets – beyond money – that communities bring to the table. Research conducted profiled exciting examples of community philanthropy that are already happening across West Africa – including in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal.

One highlight of the partnership was an online conference – <u>Local philanthropy, localization</u> <u>and power: Communities driving their own development</u> – held in September 2021, led by the West Africa Civil Society Institute and involving all of the project partners. The lively conference engaged more than 420 participants over three days and allowed for partners to share learnings from the project, considering how this experience can contribute to ongoing debates around the localization agenda.





STAR Ghana Foundation



Our finances

Statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 March 2022

	2022			2021		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
				Restated	Restated	Restated
Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:						
Grants income		1,317,493	1,317,493		1,761,489	1,761,489
Other income	23,804		23,804	1,064		1,064
Total	23,804	1,317,493	1,341,297	1,064	1,761,489	1,762,553
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	(2,661)	1,755,034	1,752,373	128,758	1,640,510	1,769,268
Total	(2,661)	1,755,034	1,752,373	128,758	1,640,510	1,769,268
Net income/ (expenditure)	26,465	(437,541)	(411,076)	(127,694)	(120,979)	(6,715)
Transfers between funds	25,000	(25,000)				
Net movement in funds	51,465	(462,541)	(411,076)	(127,694)	(120,979)	(6,715)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Funds brought forward	(31,103)	1,502,119	1,471,016	96,591	1,381,140	1,477,731
Total funds carried forward 14	20,362	1,039,578	1,059,940	(31,103)	1,502,119	1,471,016

The notes on pages 18 to 33 of the annual audited accounts form part of these financial statements.

GFCF Annual Report 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2022

There are no recognized gains and losses other than those shown within the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities.

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2022

	2022	2021	2022	2021
	Charity	Charity	Group	Group
		Restated		Restated
Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets 10	1,089	1,242	1,089	2,101
Current assets				
Debtors 11	1,366	38,164	1,762	40,125
Cash at bank and in hand	1,169,464	1,506,451	1,177,591	1,506,584
	1,170,830	1,544,615	1,179,353	1,546,709
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(116,690)	(74,849)	(120,502)	(77,794)
Net current assets	1,054,140	1,469,766	1,058,851	1,468,915
Net assets 13	1,055,229	1,471,008	1,059,940	1,471,016
Funds				
Restricted funds 14	1,035,762	1,502,573	1,039,578	1,502,119
Unrestricted funds 14	19,467	(31,565)	20,362	(31,103)
Total funds	1,055,229	1,471,008	1,059,940	1,471,016

Grant income - Charity and group

		2022 Total	2021 Total
	Restricted funds		Restated
	£	£	£
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	423,111	423,111	112,661
Adeso Africa	114,800	114,800	48,927
Facebook			74,984
CIVICUS	21,572	21,572	178,586
Inter-American Foundation	1,753	1,753	32,243
European Union			589,874
Fondation Assistance Internationale	125,417	125,417	
Fund for Global Human Rights			112,476
GlobalGiving	12,964	12,964	29,092
Foundation for a Just Society			149,880
Humanity United			77,351
Open Society Foundations	41,531	41,531	45,711
Rockefeller Brothers Fund	41,552	41,552	
The Sigrid Rausing Trust			15,000
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Wilde Ganzen)	534,793	534,793	294,704
Total grants Income	1,317,493	1,317,493	1,761,489



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.

The GFCF currently has an international board of individuals highly experienced in the fields of community philanthropy and social development. For the 2021/2022 period Directors included:

- Amitabh Behar
- Robert Ian Bird
- Laura Garcia
- Dr Barbara Jane Klugman
- Bharat Mehta appointed 29 September 2021
- Clotilde Perez-Bode Dedecker
- Stephen Pittam
- Catherine Rodgers appointed 24 June 2022

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).

A report of the Directors for the year ended 31 March 2022 is available on page 33 of this report.

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 and Complaints Procedure, 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 March 2022, 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.

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

Operational address: Workshop 17 Firestation, 11th Floor, 16 Baker Street, Rosebank, Johannesburg 2196, South Africa

Auditors: UHY Ross Brooke Chartered Accountants, Suite I, Windrush Court, Abingdon Business Park, Abingdon OX14 1SY, U.K.

Bankers: 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.





EcoThailand Foundation

Report of the Directors for the year ended 31 March 2022

Structure, governance and management

The Directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022. The Directors of the GFCF – for the purposes of company law and who served during the year and up to the date of this report.

The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, applicable Accounting Standards in the United Kingdom and the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice" SORP (FRS102).

The charity is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 29 July 2009 (company registration number NI073343), registered with the HM Revenue & Customs as a charity, No. XT18816 and registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland as a charity No. NIC101135.

The GFCF is registered in the UK and South Africa (registered as a non-profit organization, 080-707-NPO, and non-profit company, 2010/000806/08). The two legal entities are inextricably linked and operate as a group.

The narrative below reflects a brief overview of the group and the work it does.

Appointment to the board of Directors

The composition, appointment and dismissal of Directors is guided by the GFCF's two legal Statutes (U.K. and South Africa) and principles of good governance. The board appoints Directors. At every board meeting, GFCF Directors are invited to recommend names of potential Directors. The Nomination Committee (a sub-set of current Directors) retains a record of this. Occasionally, and at the discretion of the Directors, a global open call for applicants is also used as a method for board recruitment (this was the case in 2022 / 2023).

Eligibility criteria applied in the selection of new Directors include demonstrated track record in the fields of community philanthropy, private philanthropy and / or international development aid, evidence of commitment to the GFCF's core values, purpose and vision and relevant specific expertise (in finance, particular programme, policy and geographic priority areas etc.).

Other considerations include ensuring the diversity of the board as a whole in terms of age, gender, race / ethnicity, lived experience etc.

Short-listed candidates are invited to speak with the Nomination Committee and Executive Director, at which time a decision will be made regarding whether to approach them to serve. The Nomination Committee will consult, in confidence, with other Directors prior to meeting potential board members in order to have all voices taken into consideration during the process. Should a candidate be approached to serve as a Director, this will be approved and formalized by serving Directors, requiring a majority of two-thirds of Directors agree with the appointment.

Each new Director receives an orientation package as part of their induction. This comprises organizational statutes, governance manual, most recent strategic and operational plans, latest Annual Report and audited financial statements and a selection of key publications that will orient the Director to the organization's approach to community philanthropy and its ways of working. All new Directors are required to review and sign off on the Governance Manual, returning this to the Executive Director for record keeping.

Responsibilities of the board of Directors

The board of Directors is responsible for approving the annual strategy. However, decisions regarding allocation of grants, operations and day-to-day allocation of resources lie with the GFCF management personnel. The board of Directors delegates day-to-day management of the charity to the Executive Director, Jenny Hodgson. The board of Directors meets twice annually to advise on high level strategy and to provide oversight in terms of grantmaking, governance and finances. Decisions concerning the pay and remuneration of the charity's key management personnel are taken by the Executive Director and Treasurer. In making these decisions, U.K. charitable sector benchmarks, as well as geographic location of staff, are taken into consideration.

The Directors are specifically responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and UK Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity at the end of the financial year end and of the surplus or deficit for that year.

In preparing these financial statements the Directors are required to:

- a) Observe methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- b) State whether applicable U.K. accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- c) Select appropriate accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- d) Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- e) Prepare the financial statements on an ongoing basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In accordance with company law, as the company's Directors, we certify that so far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the charity's auditors in connection with preparing their report) of which the charity's auditors are unaware, and the Directors have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.



Keystone Foundation, India



Rawa Creative Palestinian Communities Fund, Credit Ain Media

Objectives and activities

The primary object of the charity is to act as a grassroots grantmaker working to promote and support the field and practice community philanthropy around the world.

The charity works with individual community foundations and other local grantmakers and their networks around the world, with a particular focus on the Global South and the emerging economies of Central and Eastern Europe.

Through small grants, technical support and networking, the charity helps 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.

As outlined in this Annual Report, the three core objectives of the charity are also listed in the table below, along with activities undertaken in line with each objective, and how success is assessed with regards to each.

Objective	Activities undertaken	Assessing success	Aims	
To support the building of institutional capacity among community foundations and community philanthropy organizations at the local level	Grantmaking programmesTechnical assistance	Number of grantsNumber of new partners	Short-term: Locally-owned and directed community	
	Peer exchanges	Connections between partnersLocal resources mobilized by partners	philanthropy organizations, building assets, capacities and trust in the areas where they work	
To strengthen the field of community philanthropy across the world, focusing on deepening practice, fostering thought leadership and enhancing the voice and identity of the field	 Convenings of partners Peer learnings activities Research reports GFCF website and E-Bulletin 	 Number of convenings / number and range of participants Number of reports produced / downloads from GFCF website Number of blogs / thought pieces in E-Bulletin Increase in subscriptions to E-Bulletin Increase in traffic to GFCF website 	 Short-term: Capacities, connections, networks, practice, and visibility between partners are strengthened Evidence base for community philanthropy as an eco-system of local actors responding to urgent and changing community needs at the local level is expanded 	
To inform and influence the relationship between the community philanthropy field and policy makers, international development agencies and the broader philanthropic sector	 Giving for Change programme #ShiftThePower Treehouse Building new relationships with INGOs and funders 	 Increase in traffic to #ShiftThePower Treehouse Number of new donors to GFCF and partners Number of new partnerships / new ways of working demonstrated with INGOs and funders Pando #ShiftThePower network map 	Long-term: Profile of community philanthropy amongst a broader range of development actors – as an increasingly theorized and documented development practice, and a core element of broader efforts aimed at building local ownership and shifting power – is increased	

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Plans for the future

These objectives will continue to be advanced in the coming years by the charity. The board of Directors holds formal meetings twice annually to review progress and strategy based on experiences and lessons learned. For the foreseeable future, no significant changes to strategy or resource allocation are foreseen.

Public benefit

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 provide a benefit to the beneficiaries. The Directors believe that all the work of the GFCF is for the public benefit, as defined in law.

Achievements and performance for the year ended 31 March 2022

For the year ended 31 March 2022 the charity awarded small grants amounting to £1,180,741 to 50 community philanthropy organizations in 27 countries. The primary purpose of the grantmaking programme is to build the capacity of community philanthropy institutions around the world. By fostering local cultures of giving, harnessing both local and external resources and through the use of grants and other support mechanisms, community philanthropy institutions are able to become trusted and effective change-makers able to empower communities to address their own development needs. GFCF grants particularly emphasize efforts to reach and support those communities most marginalized, whether by poverty, prejudice, or other forms of exclusion. For the year ended 31 March 2022, GFCF grants supported institutional development of individual partners, COVID-19 response efforts and response to the war in Ukraine.

A second programme relates to learning and sharing of good practice. The charity organized various online learning events, enabling practitioners in community philanthropy to exchange with and learn from colleagues working in different country contexts. Several reports and thought pieces were also produced, which aim to build the evidence-base for community philanthropy as a development practice.

A third programme of the charity's work focused on continuing to raise the profile of the global community philanthropy among policy makers, international development agencies and the broader philanthropic sector. In particular, the GFCF is a member of the Giving for Change consortium, a five-year, eight-country programme aimed at positioning community philanthropy, both nationally and globally, as a form of and force for freedom of expression and claiming of rights.

More details on specific pieces of work from each programme can be found in this report.

Financial review

Overview

The GFCF continued to support the efforts of partners around the world to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic during 2021 / 2022, using additional funding that had been raised from funders the previous year. At the end of February 2022, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine: this resulted in millions of people from Ukraine fleeing their homes for neighbouring countries. Using available unrestricted funds, the GFCF made a series of emergency grants to partners in neighbouring countries to support their humanitarian response efforts. Additional funders expressed an interest in supporting the GFCF's ongoing grantmaking in response to the Ukraine war. 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 (2022 / 2023) either as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic or the war in Ukraine.

The group ended the financial year in a stable position, one that will enable it to move forward and focus on implementing a new and sustainable operating model in 2022 / 2023. In total, the GFCF raised income of £1,317,493 in 2021 / 2022, a 26% fall from last year (2020 / 2021). During the 2020 / 2021 financial year the organization had been able to mobilize additional funds in response to the humanitarian crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Over this period, the GFCF spent £1,752,373 on charitable activities, which is slightly less than expenditure of £1,769,268 in the previous year (2020 / 2021). Expenditure on raising funds of £31,984 remained similar against the previous year (2020 / 2021). Net expenditure was a deficit of £411,076 for 2021 / 2022 compared to a deficit of £6,715 against the 2020 / 2021 net income. The total funds carried forward to the financial year 2022 / 2023 is £1,059,940 compared to £1,471,016 carried forward to the financial year 2021 / 2022, of which £1,039,578 was restricted (2021: £1,502,119).

Principal funding sources

The GFCF's income is derived from a variety of sources. These are largely in the form of grants from institutional donors (including trusts, foundations, multilateral and bilateral donors), and, occasionally, voluntary income for particular appeals and campaigns.

The principal funding sources for the year ended 31 March 2022 have been: 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 Foundations, Rockefeller Brothers Fund and the Sigrid Rausing Trust.

Reserves

For the year ending 31 March 2023 the Directors will be developing and approving a GFCF reserve policy.

Risk policy

For the year ending 31 March 2023 the Directors will be developing and approving a GFCF risk policy.

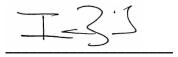
Auditors

Ross Brooke Limited, Chartered Accountants are deemed to be reappointed in accordance with Section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

References and administrative details

Refer to page 31 of this report.

This report was approved and authorized for issue on 14 December 2022 by the board and signed on its behalf by:



Ian Bird

Director Global Fund for Community Foundations