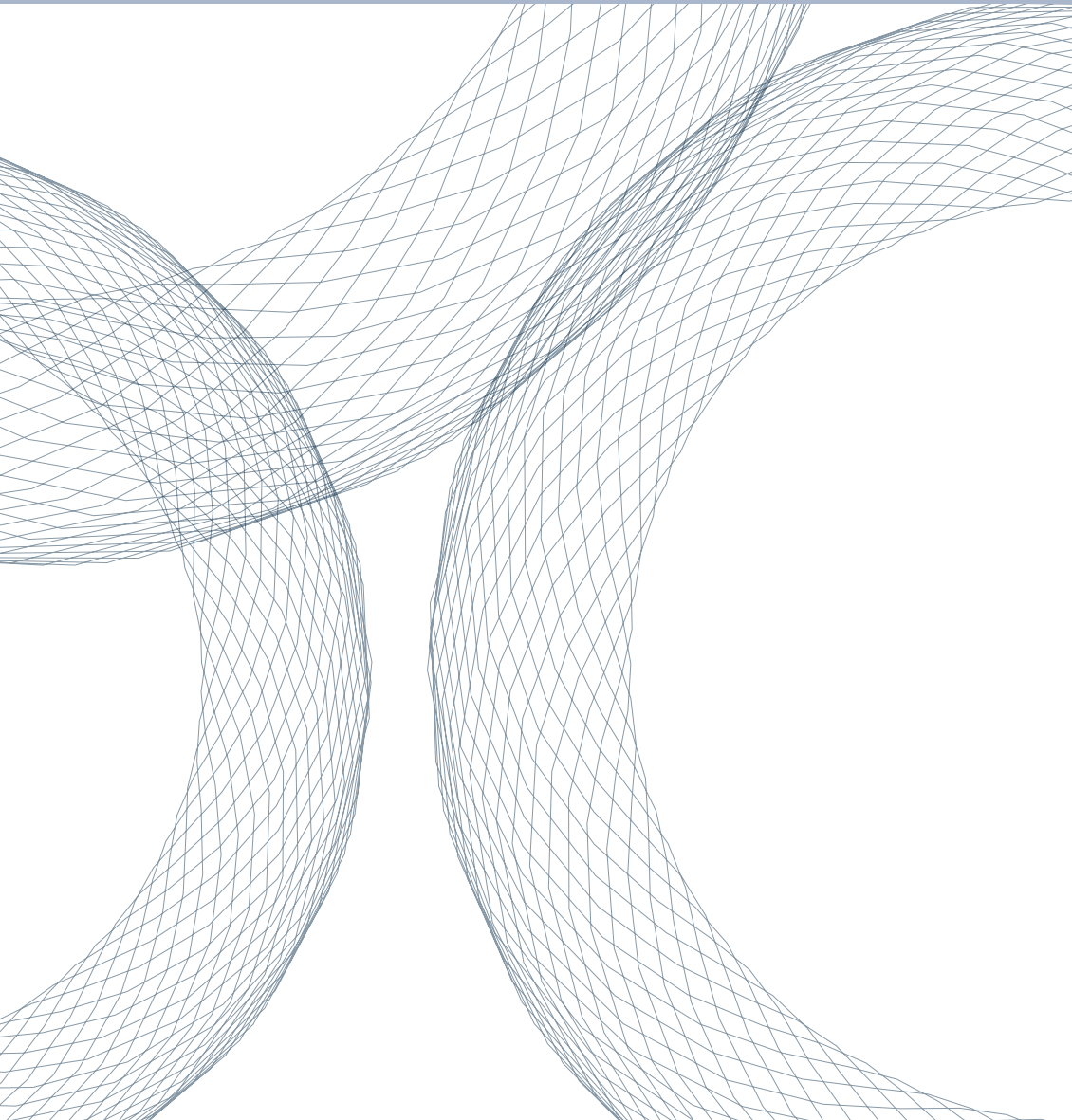


# Annual Report

1 April 2022–1 March 2023





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**Cover images captions (Clockwise starting from top left):**

1. Ridnya Community Foundation, Ukraine
2. Tewa, Nepal
3. Resources Oriented Development Initiatives, Kenya
4. Fundación Semilla, Bolivia



Dalia Association, Palestine



# From the GFCF Chair



Center for Disaster Preparedness, Philippines



## From the GFCF Chair

### **“In dark times, the virtues of compassion, kindness and generosity shine brighter.”**

These words were penned in December 2022 by Maria Kyrylenko, Deputy Chair of the Boyarka Community Foundation in Ukraine, in a letter to foreign supporters of the foundation ([which can be read in its entirety here](#)). The letter expresses the practical realities of living and working during war time – the fear and suffering, yet also the staunch determination of the foundation to support its community.

The war in Ukraine has undoubtedly been a focus for the GFCF over the period covered by this Annual Report, and we have been nothing short of astounded by the work of our partners there, and the incredible creativity and innovation they have displayed during this challenging time. Take for example Moloda Gromada, who have been using crypto tokens to encourage

citizen participation for the benefit of their local communities, or the Princes-Benefactors Ostrozky Foundation who launched a psycho-social support programme centered on bread-making (you can read more about that on page 16). We have also been deeply moved by the solidarity displayed by GFCF partners in Ukraine and the wider region. Many have joined forces to provide housing for internally displaced people, deliver humanitarian aid to communities in need, coordinate advocacy efforts to raise the profile of local actors, and to launch fundraising campaigns in support of their peers. For anyone wondering what “movement generosity” looks like in action, look no further.

Beyond Ukraine, the local impulse to help and support those in need during dark times was on full display throughout the past year. Often, GFCF partners found themselves at the very centre of this – leading, supporting and coordinating local responses to crises. In February, we made



Boyarka Community Foundation, Ukraine



Stara Zagora Community Foundation, Bulgaria

a grant to the NEAR Network for its Syria-Türkiye Solidarity Fund, which provides support to local organizations who had been the first responders following the devastating earthquake there. The following month, at the launch of #ShiftThePower in Malawi (which you can read about on page 23), it became similarly evident that it was local individuals and organizations who had provided the first humanitarian assistance to those affected by Cyclone Freddy and its aftermath. Beyond this, local actors across East Africa – including numerous GFCF partners – banded together to support the LGBTQI+ community as governments have enacted, or considered enacting, draconian laws threatening their security and challenging their very existence. Across these geographies, it is also these local actors that will continue to be there in the long-term, working tirelessly when international attention shifts to the next crisis.

From our position at the GFCF, the pivotal roles played by our network of partners – particularly in times of crisis and upheaval – has never been clearer and more critical. Yet (and this is becoming a regular refrain in my annual Chair's letter) these actors continue to receive

so little support. Promises from international donors to improve the amount and quality of funding reaching the grassroots, with only a few exceptions, continue to be hollow. According to a [February 2023 report](#) from Refugees International, less than 1% of the US \$3.9 billion in international funding mobilized for Ukraine went directly to local actors. It starts to become difficult to imagine how those working at the grassroots can ever be expected to survive, let alone thrive, in a system that was not designed for their success.

While those figures relate specifically to Ukraine, they should matter to all of us. For whatever happens now in Ukraine could have lasting ripple effects throughout the humanitarian aid and international development systems. Particularly since COVID-19, there have been many conversations and commitments around decolonization, #ShiftThePower, localization, etc. But now we need to start seeing real, consistent action. It should not take another crisis to realize that reform is desperately overdue. Old ways of working which undermine or overlook the critical role of local civil society must become a thing of the past.





In pursuit of a new, reimagined system, we at the GFCF have continued with our work supporting our community philanthropy partners through our grantmaking, connecting the field and building its evidence base, and building a global movement to #ShiftThePower. I invite you to read the following Annual Report for a sense of how we have approached this over the past year. One particular highlight was the launch of the new #ShiftThePower Fellowship (which you can read about on page 20), which aims to deepen and expand the movement, and to support new voices that are also advocating for a more dignified and empowering development sector for all.

We certainly need as many allies as possible for this work to have real, long-lasting impact, and I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to our donors, partners, board and staff, along with many others in the wider #ShiftThePower movement, with whom we have collaborated with over the last year. Whenever it feels that the change we want to see is slow in arriving, I hope we can all take strength from Maria's words and remember that "compassion, kindness and generosity" will always find a way to outshine the darkness.



## Ian Bird

Chair, GFCF



Carpathian Foundation, Slovakia

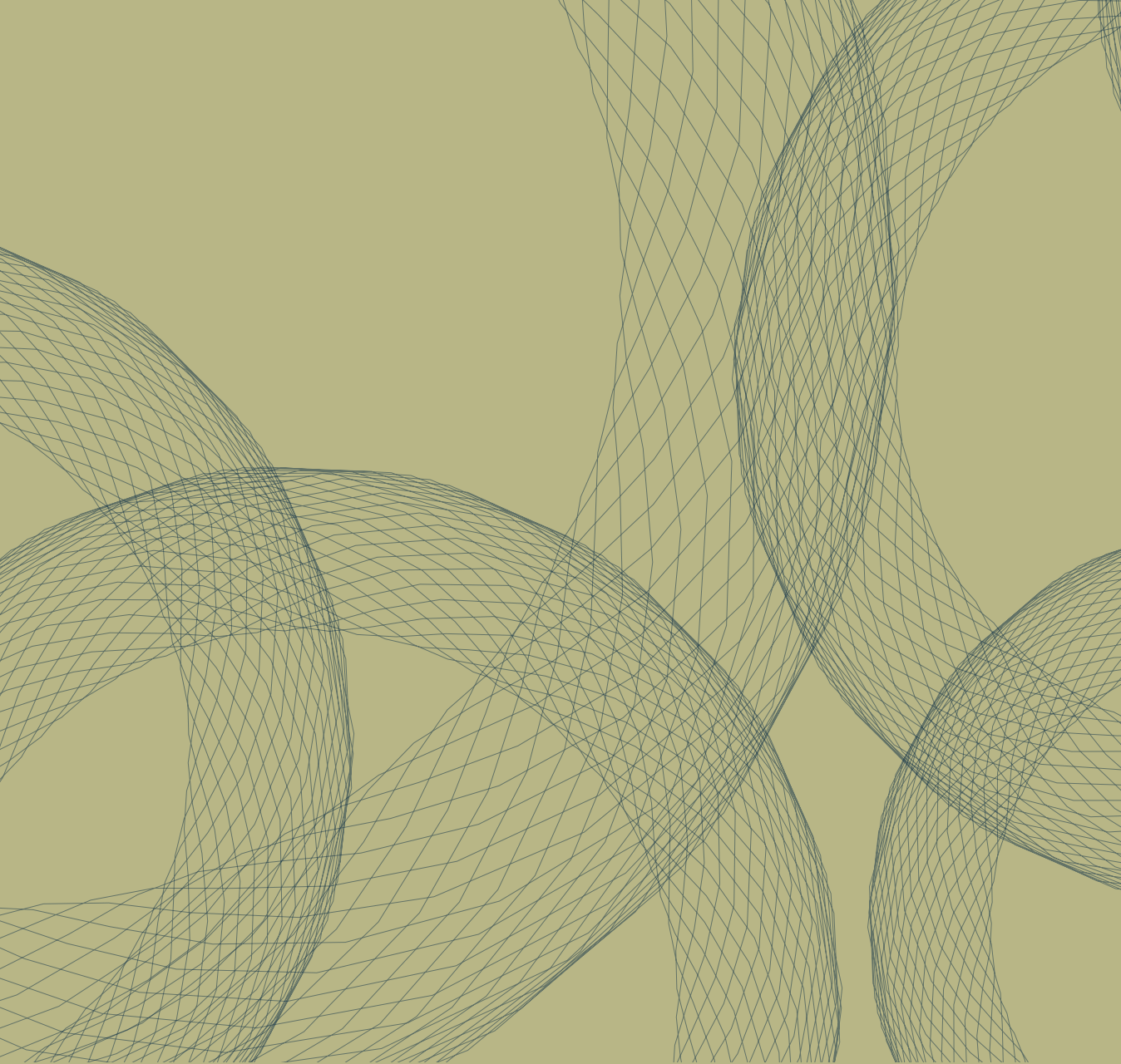


Bulsho Fund, Somalia



EcoThailand Foundation





# About our work





## 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, and 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 adaptable enough 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 which are made up of diverse civil society and grassroots networks as well as strong organizations that are rooted in their constituencies 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.



Keystone Foundation, India



Healthy City Community Foundation, Slovakia



## 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.



Bucharest Community Foundation, Romania



Nguzo Africa, Kenya



An abstract graphic consisting of multiple overlapping, flowing wireframe loops in a light blue color, set against a solid light blue background.

# Key outcomes in 2022/2023





# 1. Grants to community philanthropy organizations

Our main tool for strengthening our community philanthropy partners continues to be in the form of small grants. During the period covered by this Annual Report, we made 68 grants totalling £1,162,121 to 55 community philanthropy organizations and two individuals across 24 countries.

## Our 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.



### Ukraine response

In response to the war in Ukraine, we made a number of grants to partners in Ukraine, as well as Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania to support their ability to respond to the humanitarian crisis caused by the war and the mass flight of displaced people to neighbouring countries. This ranged from providing direct relief to those affected by the war (food, accommodation, transportation, etc), to organizing psycho-social support addressing the trauma of the conflict, as well as focusing on the longer-term social inclusion of displaced individuals and families. In some cases, GFCF grants covered core operational costs so that organizations could focus on their response to the crisis.





## #ShiftThePower Fellowships

In 2022 we launched the inaugural #ShiftThePower Fellowship programme. Grants were made to Fellows' organizations to cover the time they dedicated to participating in the Fellowship. See page 20 for more details on the programme itself.



Fundação Micaia, Mozambique

## Research

One of our key objectives is to grow and deepen the evidence base for community philanthropy and the #ShiftThePower movement. We have continued to make action research grants as part of a programme exploring the framing of the "good society" or "the civil society we want" across multiple contexts and communities.



## 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.

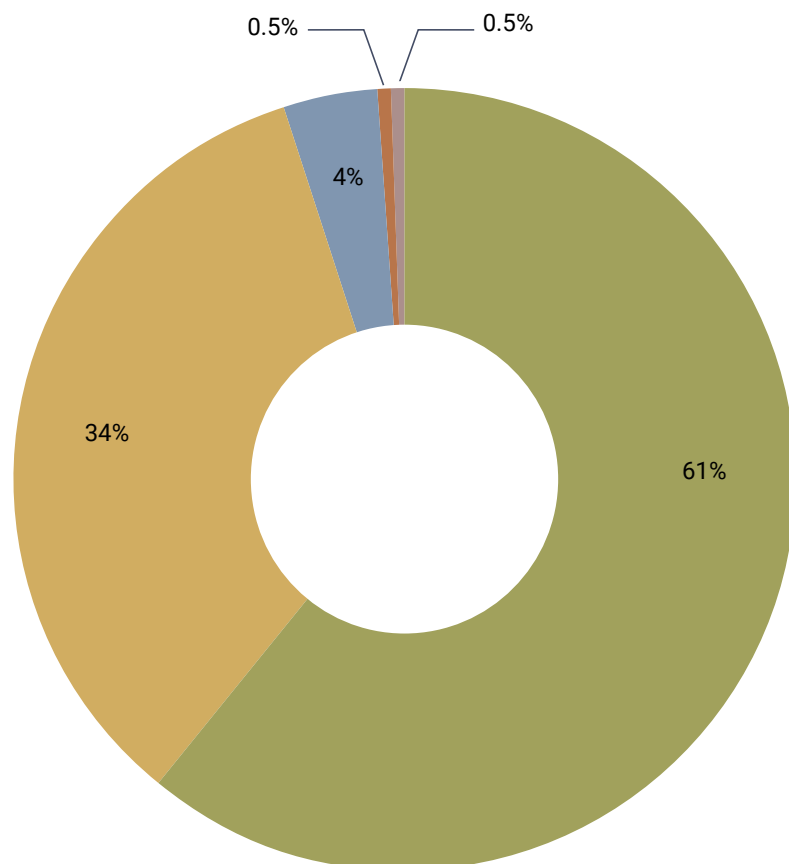


## Grants distribution by programme

\*Both charts on this page illustrate distribution in terms of total funds disbursed.

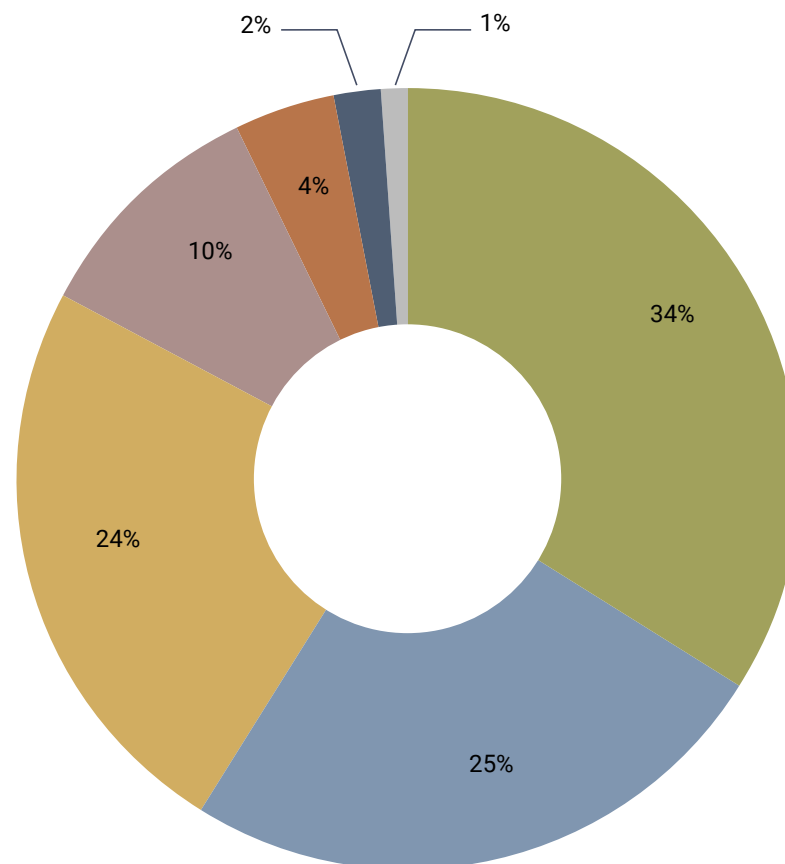
### Grants distribution by programme

- Institutional Development
- Ukraine Response
- #ShiftThePower Fellowship
- Research
- Conferences and Convenings



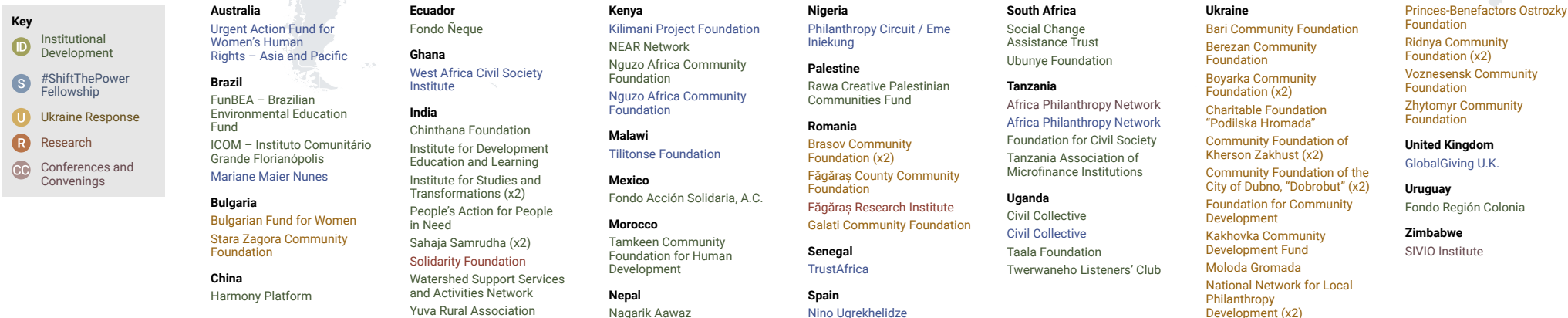
### Grants distribution by geography

- Europe and Central Asia
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- South Asia
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Middle East North Africa
- East Asia Pacific
- Western Europe





The following map illustrates where our grant funding has been directed. The list below provides details of which organizations received funding, and under which of our grants programmes the funding was received.





## Grants in the spotlight

### Institutional Development

#### Challenging the notion of who is a “philanthropist” through Giving Circles

Since its founding in 2005, Amigos de San Cristóbal has been committed to supporting vulnerable populations in San Cristóbal de Las Casas and across the Highlands of Chiapas in the South of Mexico. The organization had initially conceived its role as a bridge, channeling external resources to local civil society organizations. In 2018, with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Amigos de San Cristóbal took the decision to formally reorient its work as a community foundation, and in 2020 it launched a specific community philanthropy programme. The aim of the programme was to involve rural and urban communities from across the region more meaningfully in creating positive social change, emphasizing the role that local resources and social change agents can play in contributing to this.

The starting point for the programme was to interrogate the very idea of who is a philanthropist with the aim of shifting the understanding of “philanthropy” from something only done by wealthy people in faraway places to something much more participatory, local and community-based in nature. Amigos de San Cristóbal embraces a broad understanding of what constitutes philanthropic resources, describing “the four T’s: treasure, time, talent and testimony.” Local Giving Circles are one of the primary tools used by the organization to



build local philanthropy in the region and are a vehicle through which communities can pool their “four T” resources. With a 2021 GFCF grant (though much of the work was carried out over the period covered by this report) the organization set out to continue strengthening and broadening the impact of this work.

The Giving Circles aim to challenge social, political and economic norms by being based on the premise that everyone has something to contribute, even in the face of past injustices or conventional assumptions regarding different community members’ “place” in the community. Amigos de San Cristóbal is committed to diversity and linguistic access and, in that spirit, all communications around the Giving Circles programme were made available in four languages: Tzeltal, Tsotsil, Spanish and English. The inclusion of local indigenous languages was especially significant as it encourages participation from individuals and communities who have traditionally been marginalized and excluded. Furthermore, work with indigenous groups was a deliberate strategy aimed at tapping into ancestral practices of giving, solidarity and reciprocity, recognizing that these concepts are deeply woven into the fabric of indigenous communities.

As Amigos de San Cristóbal continues to test different strategies and refine its Giving Circles approach based on lessons learned, it has come to believe that its efforts to shift traditional notions around philanthropy in the Highlands of Chiapas are well worth it. The foundation is confident that it is creating a solid basis from which social change in the region can be more effectively realized. Giving Circles participants are also starting to see themselves as philanthropists and local change-makers, rather than simply passive recipients of charity.



## Ukraine Response

### Bread therapy: A strategy for strengthening social cohesion

“The uniqueness of the model lies in its simplicity” is how Ruslan Kraplych, the Executive Director of the Princes-Benefactors Ostrozky Foundation, describes their programme, aptly named “The Community Shares Bread.”

The foundation works in Rivne in Western Ukraine, a district which became home to thousands of internally displaced people (IDPs) during 2022, many of them coming from the East of Ukraine. Most had lost their jobs and many were suffering from the traumas associated with the war. Without deliberate efforts to integrate these new arrivals, the foundation was concerned that they would not feel – or be made to feel – like part of the community. It also quickly became clear that many municipalities did not have adequate means to respond to the mass movement of people across the country, and the resulting challenges to social cohesion that might ensue. In addition, the collective and individual psychological trauma caused by the war was largely being overlooked, with the focus of much of the aid effort on providing urgent humanitarian aid.



In response to the challenge, the foundation developed and launched a psycho-social support programme called “The Community Shares Bread” aimed at bringing IDPs and local residents together to bake and break bread. The simple goal of these small group sessions – held in schools, community centres, local businesses and private homes (basically, anywhere with an oven) – was to connect local residents and their new neighbours in order to build trust, personal bonds, and to create a sense of home, warmth and belonging. Facilitators leading the sessions were trained not only in the skills of bread-making, but also on the basics of the programme’s inherent psycho-social support strategy.

Once made, the bread would be shared over coffee and conversation. IDPs pack the surplus bread products and deliver these to local families living in poverty, the elderly, volunteer centres and military personnel. This also provided them with a sense of purpose, and the feeling that they were contributing to their new community. According to the foundation “the very approach of giving bread to local people from the host community causes the effect of a rush of gratitude and closeness of people who help each other during an incredible trial.”

In Ukraine, sharing bread has deep symbolic meaning, emphasizing connections between people. The foundation produced a manual and training video to share their experiences and methodology, and received interest from local economic development agencies in seven cities across Ukraine keen to replicate the programme.

“The Community Shares Bread” was launched initially with a GFCF grant: however a number of other international donors subsequently came on board to support it. One local individual contributed US \$6,250 (just under £5,000) in cash and local businesses also offered their premises and covered the costs of various supplies, including electricity. As a result, the programme was able to reach many more people than originally anticipated. In fact, the foundation estimates that more than 100,000 bread products were produced and distributed, with an approximate value of \$30,000 (approximately £23,500).



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

If the community philanthropy field is to be better recognized, appreciated and supported there is still much work to do to demonstrate its value and relevance to a range of different stakeholders. Over the year, we continued to connect the field through online partner-led learning sessions which began during COVID-19. As the world started to return to “normal” following the pandemic, face-to-face meetings were resumed.

### Connecting the field

#### Online partner-led learning sessions

Continuing from the series launched during COVID-19, we hosted two online sessions:



Initiative Pananetugri pour le Bien-être de la Femme, Burkina Faso

In July, along with partners from Burkina Faso and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, we explored “Building local resources and shifting power: Community philanthropy’s potential in Francophone Africa.” Conducted in French, the session considered how local organizations can begin to move away from a dependence on external funding and start mobilizing local resources, and how civil society actors embarking on this journey can better support each other and share knowledge and experiences.



Kilimani Project Foundation, Kenya

Later in the year, in October, we explored how GFCF partners in Haiti and Kenya are [Getting it right with corporate philanthropy](#). Speakers made the point that corporates are members of the communities too something to bear in mind when engaging them, whether in terms of identifying common interests or engaging staff and owners as volunteers or even as donors.

## GFCF partner meeting in Entebbe

After the travel hiatus brought about by COVID-19, it was good to meet up with partners in person in Entebbe, Uganda, in November. We used the opportunity afforded by the Africa Philanthropy Network (APN) Assembly to organize [a two-day meeting](#), bringing together a mix of trailblazers in the community philanthropy space with organizations newer to the approach, who were looking to test new strategies and approaches and learn from others in a supportive environment. Over the course of the two days we explored the question, “How can community philanthropy and local asset mobilization help drive larger efforts to put communities at the heart of their own development processes, advance equity and justice and shift power?”



31 GFCF partners attended from across Africa and from Brazil. Most stayed on to attend the APN Assembly too. The gathering was a welcome reminder that, while online meetings can be effective, in-person gatherings provide an altogether different atmosphere that encourages open learning and sharing as well as an opportunity to build deeper relationships. The value of face-to-face meetings was further reinforced by a participant in the post-meeting survey:

***“The GFCF meeting was the equivalent of driving alone and spotting a petrol / gas station on a long, arduous journey. You stop over, fuel up, get refreshments, make conversations that turn into lifelong connections, and the memories of that engagement keep you company until the next pit stop.”***





## Growing the evidence base

We published and contributed to several reports during the period to share our learnings and continue to build the evidence base for community philanthropy and people-led development, including:



[From “innovation for localization” to “local philanthropy, localization and power”](#): This report tells the story of an experimental project driven by an unusual alliance of five civil society and international development actors including the GFCF, NEAR Network, Save the Children Denmark, STAR Ghana Foundation and West Africa Civil Society Institute. The purpose of this collaboration was to test the potential of new kinds of institutional arrangements, partnerships and approaches as a strategy for advancing the localization agenda and shifting power. The report is offered as a contribution to larger field-wide and systems-level efforts aimed at reforming and transforming “how development is done.”



[Reimagining civil society resourcing in Tanzania: A scoping study](#): The goal of the study, which was based on a series of conversations with a range of different actors operating in Tanzania, was to stimulate a larger conversation about the potential for growing, organizing and measuring the role of local resources in more meaningful ways. It was conducted within the framework of a larger programme, Kukuza Uwezo, aimed at strengthening the capacity of Disabled People’s Organizations in Tanzania and Uganda, funded by the National Lottery Community Fund and implemented by GlobalGiving.



[I help them in my own way – exploring local humanitarian action in Burkina Faso and Mali](#): Published in collaboration with the NEAR Network, Save the Children Denmark, STAR Ghana Foundation and West Africa Civil Society Institute, this report focuses on local humanitarian action in Burkina Faso and Mali, particularly when implemented by local civil society organizations and individuals. The report reflects on how new, local models for humanitarian action may inform longer-term visions for more effective and impactful humanitarian aid in these two countries.



### 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 (COVID-19, the war in Ukraine, the growing climate catastrophe – to name a few), these same actors also continue to be regularly overlooked and undervalued by mainstream philanthropy and development sectors. Our work to build a global movement to #ShiftThePower and to keep expanding the voice of the movement, therefore, feels more important than ever. We have continued to work with a wide range of donors who are committed to exploring community philanthropy as a strategy for fostering more meaningful and equitable community-led development.

#### #ShiftThePower Fellowship

What happens when you bring 12 global change-makers together to grow the #ShiftThePower movement? In 2022, in partnership with Root Change, we invited applications from the broader network for the inaugural #ShiftThePower Fellowship. The purpose of this nine-month experimental programme was to strengthen the connection between peers around the world, to collectively explore ideas of “systems change” in international philanthropy and development aid, and to grow representation of the movement.



[12 Fellows](#) were selected, representing diverse parts of the #ShiftThePower ecosystem. Fellows had the opportunity to extend their networks, identify new allies and to explore potential areas of research, learning and collaboration. Beyond deepening connections, the Fellowship provided a space for Fellows to think and reflect on the wider #ShiftThePower context, and their roles in this as individuals and as organizations. Reflections from Fellows were shared during a [closing webinar](#) in March 2023. Some specific comments include:

*“The Fellowship was an enriching experience. It enabled me to learn from the other Fellows...It has created a network of individuals and resources that I can tap into on our journey in the #ShiftThePower movement.”*

*“The Fellowship reawakened us regarding the need to have internal dialogue [within our organization] on what power means to us and how to dislodge any privileges.”*

#### The #ShiftThePower Treehouse

The [#ShiftThePower Treehouse](#) continues to build its profile as the digital hub for the movement. The Treehouse launched in 2021 and provides a platform for a range of new and established voices to be heard, many from the Global South, with operational and editorial support from the GFCF. Over the period covered by this report, the Treehouse published 37 blogs and thought pieces covering various topics, including; calls to change funder practices, community philanthropy, decolonizing aid and systems perspectives on development. The site received more than 14,700 visitors and is also home to the [#ShiftThePower Manifesto for Change](#), which has now been translated into French, Nepali, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish and Ukrainian.



## Giving for Change

The Giving for Change programme is a five-year, €24 million (approximately £20.5 million) programme which aims to foster local giving as an expression of voice, civic participation, solidarity and dissent. Funded under the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs' "Power of Voices" programme, Giving for Change is being implemented in Brazil, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Palestine and Uganda, and is led by a consortium of four organizations: the Africa Philanthropy Network, GFCF, Kenya Community Development Foundation and Wilde Ganzen.

One of the roles of the GFCF is to advance international advocacy, influencing and partnerships with international development actors to promote the development of community philanthropy as a central pillar of broader efforts to shift power. In 2022, we began to focus more deliberately on developing a joined-up approach and created a sub-group on advocacy, influencing and communication with Giving for Change partners and other allies from the wider #ShiftThePower movement. The group is considering different strategies for growing the profile of community philanthropy – and why this matters in the context of reimagining aid.

We have also continued to use our website and the #ShiftThePower Treehouse to feature stories about how Giving for Change partners are exploring new ways of deciding and doing in their work around the world. This includes stories from [Brazil](#), [Ghana](#), [Mozambique](#) and [Uganda](#).

Finally, we have contributed to various sector-level initiatives and events relevant to community philanthropy development in the eight countries where the programme is being implemented (in some cases, we facilitated the participation of our partners to do so). One example was the West African Philanthropy Support Ecosystem Project, launched by TrustAfrica and WINGS in 2022. The initiative sought to map and highlight trends, practices and actors supporting philanthropy in development in the region. GFCF staff contributed to this process, and also moderated a session during the initiative's launch conference that highlighted how different actors in Burkina Faso are working with their constituencies to build local resource mobilization and community philanthropy.





## Shifting power and resources to local actors in Ukraine

During the period covered by this report, we worked extensively with the National Network of Local Philanthropy Development in Ukraine around advocacy and influencing, making the case for the increased flow and quality of resources to local actors at the frontlines of the war in Ukraine. In September, we assisted with the writing and promotion of the [Open letter to international donors and NGOs who want to genuinely help Ukraine](#), which garnered more than 300 signatories. The letter outlines a series of actions donors can take to support local Ukrainian actors more effectively. We also co-hosted two online events with the Network; [Shift power and resources to Ukrainian NGOs](#) in November, and [A year in review: Community philanthropy's response to the war in Ukraine](#) in February. Along with this, we have established new relationships with Choose Love, GlobalGiving and the Open Society Foundations to support the GFCF's grantmaking in Ukraine and the wider region.



National Network of Local Philanthropy Development, Ukraine



## An open letter to international donors and NGOs who want to genuinely help Ukraine



Ridnya Community Foundation, Ukraine

## Representation at conferences and events

The growing interest in community philanthropy and #ShiftThePower amongst new audiences has been reflected in the range and number of events (both online and in-person) we have either co-organized, been invited to speak at, or have enabled others to participate at. Here are some highlights that have been selected for this Annual Report:



### Giving Circles around the world

In May, we organized a session as part of Philanthropy Together's online WeGive Summit to showcase [our paper on Giving Circles](#), and the experiences of our partners who contributed to it. The session "How Giving Circles around the world are quietly shifting power" featured GFCF partners from Hungary, Palestine and South Africa. As Beulah Fredericks of the Community Development Foundation Western Cape noted during the session:

***"Giving Circles have demystified philanthropy for me and for us, and the typical definition assigned to that of a philanthropist."***



### What role can donors and INGOs play in helping to build emergent systems?

In partnership with the Center for Disaster Preparedness, GlobalGiving, the Non-Profit Finance Fund and USAID, in October 2022 we co-hosted a hybrid online / in-person (in London) roundtable discussion titled "Community philanthropy, localization and power." Recent years have seen growing calls for donors and INGOs to shift resources and decision-making power closer to local and community organizations. This convening explored how high-level aspirations can translate into tangible, power-shifting practices on the ground.



### African philanthropy in the spotlight

During the Africa Philanthropy Network conference in Entebbe in November, the GFCF organized two sessions. The first, "Localization, decolonization, and power: What is the role of African philanthropy in driving a transformative aid agenda?" featured GFCF partners from Ghana and Somalia, and touched on lessons learned from the "Innovation for localization" initiative (see page 19 for the associated learning report). The second, "Where's the (local) money for human rights and social justice?" featured partners from Kenya and Uganda who are developing new ways to bridge the gap from human rights being seen as "other people's problems" to being recognized and engaged with as a local issue.



### #ShiftThePower goes to Malawi

March saw the launch of #ShiftThePower in Lilongwe. Hosted by the Tilitonse Foundation, the GFCF supported nine of our partners from across East and Southern Africa to attend the event "Galvanizing Malawian CSOs around shifting the power" as participants and speakers. The gathering took place shortly after the devastating tropical cyclone Freddy that had left more than 600 Malawians dead, over 500 missing and many more homeless. Malawian organizations, informal groups and individuals had been the first to provide humanitarian assistance to those most affected. This point was made early on in the conference and provided a powerful place from which to launch in-depth conversations about the relevance, capacities and potential for local actors in traditional aid.



An abstract graphic on the left side of the page, featuring a series of overlapping, curved wireframe lines that create a sense of depth and movement, resembling a stylized human figure or a dynamic architectural structure.

# Our finances



Nguzo Africa, Kenya

# Consolidated statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 March 2023

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
		2023	2023	2023	2022
Note		£	£	£	£
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	4,257,493	2,939,931	7,197,424	1,317,493
Investments	4	482		482	2
Other		2,306		2,306	23,802
<b>Total income</b>		<b>4,260,281</b>	<b>2,939,931</b>	<b>7,200,212</b>	<b>1,341,297</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities	5		2,042,972	2,042,972	1,752,373
<b>Total expenditure</b>			<b>2,042,972</b>	<b>2,042,972</b>	<b>1,752,373</b>
<b>Net (expenditure)/income:</b>		<b>4,260,281</b>	<b>896,959</b>	<b>5,157,240</b>	<b>(411,076)</b>
Transfers between funds	15				
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>4,260,281</b>	<b>896,959</b>	<b>5,157,240</b>	<b>(411,076)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		20,362	1,039,578	1,059,940	1,471,016
Net movement in funds		4,260,281	896,959	5,157,240	(411,076)
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4,280,643</b>	<b>1,936,537</b>	<b>6,217,180</b>	<b>1,059,940</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognized in the year.

All activities derived from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

The notes on pages 18 to 31 of the full audited accounts form part of these financial statements. A copy of the audited accounts can be requested from the GFCF.



## Consolidated balance sheet as at 31 March 2023

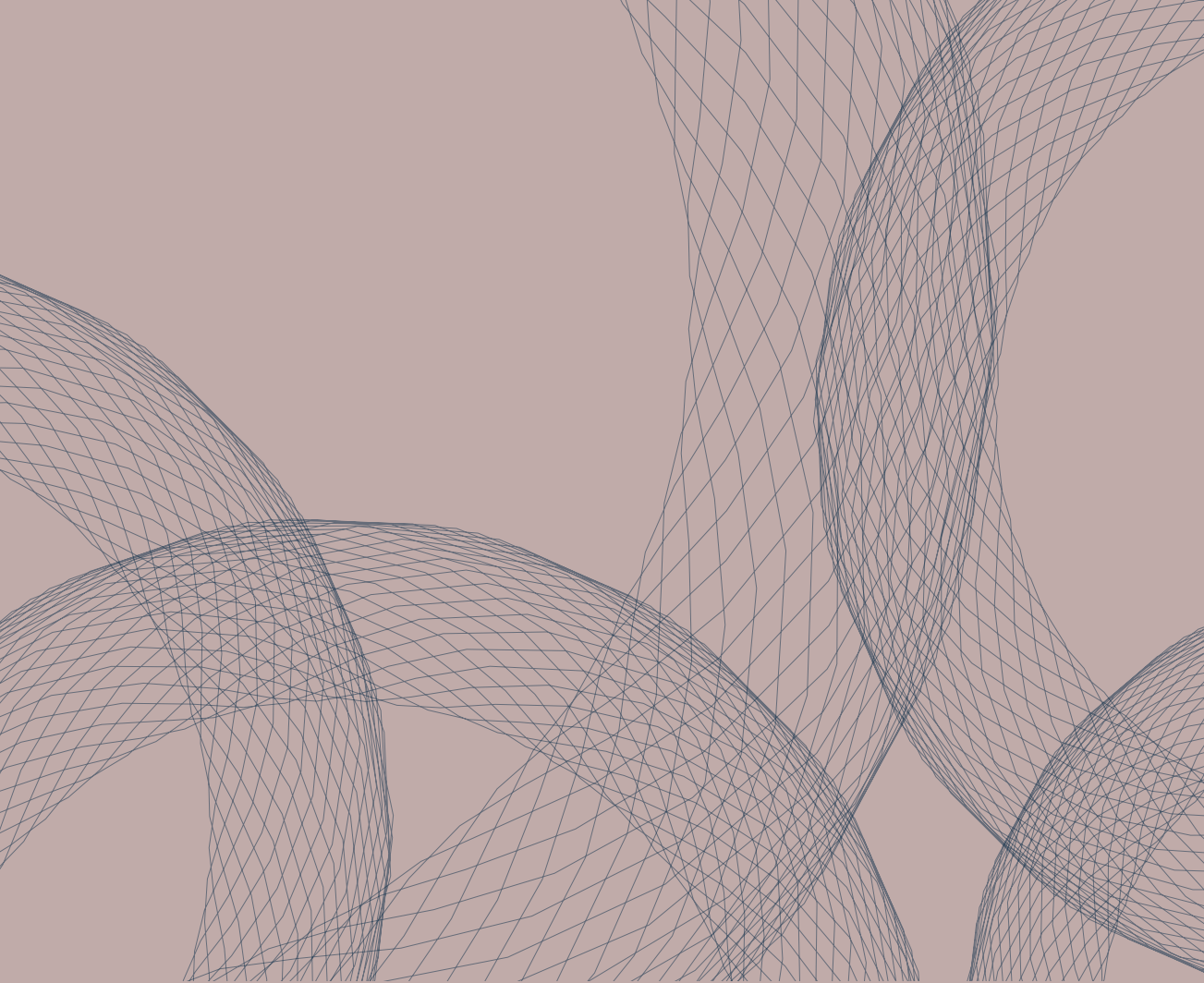
		2023	2022
	Note	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	12	3,211	1,089
		3,211	1,089
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	13	457,030	1,762
Cash at bank and in hand		5,787,423	1,177,591
		6,244,453	1,179,353
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(30,484)	(120,502)
<b>Net current assets</b>		6,213,969	1,058,851
<b>Total net assets</b>		6,217,180	1,059,940
<b>Funds</b>			
Restricted income funds		1,936,537	1,039,578
Unrestricted income funds		4,280,643	20,362
<b>Total funds</b>	15	6,217,180	1,059,940

The notes on pages 18 to 31 of the full audited accounts form part of these financial statements. A copy of the audited accounts can be requested from the GFCF.

## Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
<b>Grants</b>	<b>4,257,493</b>	<b>2,939,931</b>	<b>7,197,424</b>	1,317,493
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Adeso Africa				114,800
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation		247,756	247,756	423,111
Choose Love		230,015	230,015	
Civicus				21,572
Davidson Trust		20,000	20,000	
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Wilde Ganzen)		428,494	428,494	534,793
European Union		129,761	129,761	
Ford Foundation		930,564	930,564	
Fondation Assistance International				125,417
Foundation for a Just Society		254,074	254,074	
GlobalGiving		334,191	334,191	12,964
Humanity United		41,649	41,649	
Inter-American Foundation				1,753
National Philanthropic Trust	4,257,493		4,257,493	
Open Society Foundations		200,184	200,184	41,531
Porticus		87,130	87,130	
Rockefeller Brothers Fund		36,113	36,113	41,522
	<b>4,257,493</b>	<b>2,939,931</b>	<b>7,197,424</b>	<b>1,317,463</b>





# Our legal and administrative information





# 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 2022/2023 period Directors included:

- Amitabh Behar
- Robert Ian Bird
- Laura Garcia
- Barbara Jane Klugman
- Bharat Mehta
- Clotilde Perez-Bode Dedecker
- Stephen Pittam
- Catherine Rodgers
- Tamás Scsurszki

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 2023 is available on page 31 of this report.



Ridnya Community Foundation, Ukraine



## 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 2023, 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.





An abstract graphic on the left side of the page, featuring a series of overlapping, curved wireframe lines that create a sense of depth and movement, set against a solid brown background.

# **Report of the Directors for the year ended 31 March 2023**





# Report of the Directors for the year ended 31 March 2023

## Structure, governance and management

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023. The directors of Global Fund for Community Foundations (GFCF)—for the purposes of company law and who served during the year and up to the date of this report—are set out below:

- Amitabh Behar
- Robert Ian Bird (Chair)
- Laura Garcia
- Barbara Jane Klugman
- Bharat Mehta
- Clotilde Perez—Bode Dedecker
- Stephen Pittam—resigned 28 September 2022
- Catherine Rodgers—appointed 24 June 2022
- Tamas Scsaurszki—appointed 28 February 2023

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” SOAP (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. N/C101135.

The GFCF is registered in the UK and South Africa. The two legal entities are inextricably linked and operate as a group. A full set of consolidated accounts of the group is available.

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.

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 grant making, governance and finances. Decisions concerning the pay and remuneration of the charity's key management personnel are taken by the Executive Director and Board of Directors. 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 U.K. Accounting Standards (U.K. 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:

- Observe methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- State whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Select appropriate accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- 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 them 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.

## 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 of 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.

The three core objectives of the charity are listed in the table on the following page, 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Grantmaking programmes</li> <li>■ Technical assistance</li> <li>■ Peer exchanges</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Number of grants</li> <li>■ Number of new partners</li> <li>■ Connections between partners</li> <li>■ Local resources mobilized by partners</li> </ul>	<p>Short-term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Locally-owned and directed community philanthropy organizations, building assets, capacities and trust in the areas where they work.</li> </ul>
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Convenings of partners</li> <li>■ Peer learnings activities</li> <li>■ Research reports</li> <li>■ GFCF website and E-Bulletin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Number of convenings / number and range of participants</li> <li>■ Number of reports produced / downloads from GFCF website</li> <li>■ Number of biogs / thought pieces in E-Bulletin</li> <li>■ Increase in subscriptions to E-Bulletin</li> <li>■ Increase in traffic to GFCF website</li> </ul>	<p>Short-term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Capacities, connections, networks, practice, and visibility between partners are strengthened.</li> <li>■ 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.</li> </ul>
To inform and influence the relationship between the community philanthropy field and policy makers, international development agencies and the broader philanthropic sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Giving for Change programme</li> <li>■ #ShiftThePower Treehouse</li> <li>■ #ShiftThePower Fellowships</li> <li>■ #ShiftThePower Manifesto for Change</li> <li>■ Building new relationships with INGOs and funders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Increase in traffic to #ShiftThePower Treehouse</li> <li>■ Number of new donors to GFCF and partners</li> <li>■ Number of new partnerships/ new ways of working demonstrated with INGOs and funders</li> <li>■ #ShiftThePower network map</li> </ul>	<p>Long-term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 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.</li> </ul>

## 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 31st March 2023

For the year ended 31st March 2023 the charity awarded small grants amounting to £1,162,121. 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 changemakers 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 31st March 2023, GFCF grants supported institutional development of individual partners, research, #ShiftThePower Fellowships and response efforts 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.

## Financial Review

### Overview

GFCF ended the financial year in a strong position, one that will allow the organization to move forward and focus on implementing a new and sustainable operating model in 2023/24 and hosting a #ShiftThePower Global Summit in December 2023. In total, the GFCF raised income of £7,197,424 in 2022/23, a substantial increase from the previous financial year funds raised of £1,317,493 (2021/22). During the 2022/23 financial year the organization had been able to mobilize additional funds in response to the humanitarian crisis caused by the war in Ukraine and a one-off of donation of US \$ 5,000,000 (£4,257,493). Over this period, the GFCF spent £2,042,972 on charitable activities, which is higher than expenditure of £1,752,373 in the previous year (2021/22). Expenditure on raising funds of £43,647 remained similar against the previous year expenditure of £33,924 (2021/22). Net expenditure amounts to £2,042,972 for 2022/23 compared to expenditure of £1,752,373 against the 2021/22 net income. The total funds carried forward to the financial year 2022/23 is £6,217,180 compared to £1,159,940 carried forward to the financial year 2021/2022.



## 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 31st March 2023 have been: Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Choose Love, Davidson Trust, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs via Wilde Ganzen, European Union, Fondation Assistance Internationale, Foundation for a Just Society, GlobalGiving, Humanity United, Open Society Foundations, Porticus, Rockefeller Brothers Fund and the National Philanthropic Trust.

## Reserves

For the year ending 31st March 2024 the directors will be developing and approving a GFCF reserve policy.

## Risk policy

For the year ending 31st March 2024 the directors will be finalising the development and approving a GFCF risk policy.


## Auditors

UHY Ross Brooke, 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 28 of this report.

The Report of the Directors was approved by order of the board of Directors and signed on the board's behalf by:



**Ian Bird**

**Trustee**

Date: 21 September 2023