

# A Perspective

**Rapid review of emergency  
funding to the UK refugee and  
migration sector during COVID-19  
(March – November 2020)**

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January 2021

Migration Exchange

at  Global Dialogue

## About The Authors

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The views expressed in this report are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as the positions of any of the funding organisations or Migration Exchange as a whole.

## About Migration Exchange

Migration Exchange is an informal network of independent funders. We aim to improve the lives of people who migrate, and receiving communities in the UK, by informing public debate on migration and supporting welcoming communities. We do this through commissioning research to inform funders and key partners to act on shared concerns; supporting coordination and building capacity in the sector and aligning grants to enable activity to take place at scale or increase the potential for success. <https://global-dialogue.org/programmes/migration-exchange/>

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A slide deck of the key findings/executive summary is available on request from [dylan@global-dialogue.org](mailto:dylan@global-dialogue.org)

# 1 Foreword

2021 has started with another lockdown and COVID-19 continues to shape every aspect of our lives. While the pandemic is ongoing, we feel it is essential to capture emerging data and insights and share these to inform our way forward. In this spirit, Migration Exchange is pleased to publish this rapid review of funding to the refugee and migration sector during the first six months of this crisis.

**We also hope that more future funding approaches will be asset-based with an eye to legacy of stronger collaboration for influencing the overall system.**

The emerging data reveals an estimated £19 million of new funding distributed to refugee and migration charities over this time, within a wider spend of around £30 million on this sector. Our comprehensive 'Taking Stock' report, published in April 2020, found that the combined annual income among core refugee and migration charities is around £117 million. So, this estimate seems likely to represent a significant short-term increase in financial support to this field. This funding has been delivered rapidly with changed funder practice, increased pooled funding and some significant investment in front line support.

We knew when we commissioned this review that the funding data would be incomplete. But there are important findings here that we hope will help funders and the field to navigate the year ahead. We are grateful to the authors of, and contributors to, this report for offering a useful and timely perspective on important agendas including race equity, intersectionality and the relationship between services and advocacy.

We know that this sector is heavily reliant on trusts and foundations and that the demand for charity's services has been huge, given the hostile environment, lack of government action and failure to include people in pandemic support regardless of immigration status. We also know that people in different parts of the UK immigration system continue to be extremely hard hit.

2021 will be relentless, as resilience and energy wanes and the longer-term effects of isolation, poverty and inequality bite. This is a uniquely challenging context and one that demands a strategic and collaborative response from philanthropy, that is better coordinated and more accountable. Much has been written about the approaches that funders should adopt to mitigate inherent power imbalances and to be more impactful, responsive, and equitable. We look forward to working with others to improve philanthropy and develop practices that are more values based and equitable and driven by evidence, data and insight.

We also hope that more future funding approaches will be asset-based with an eye to legacy of stronger collaboration for influencing the overall system. In the context of a pandemic, it is of course right to try to address immediate needs such as food, cash, shelter and internet. Through this challenging time, we have witnessed the strength and resilience of migration and refugee organisations to pull together and collaborate to survive and deliver support to those who need it most. We now need to draw on these inherent qualities, to build on the stories of success and good practices that have emerged out of the crisis, and to support collective advocacy efforts to achieve systemic change.

Sarah Cutler & Dylan Fotoohi,  
Migration Exchange, January 2021

## 2 Introduction

The global COVID-19 pandemic has resurfaced many ‘truths’<sup>1</sup> across the globe but perhaps most striking has been its ability to hold a mirror up to our societal vulnerabilities and inequalities, and how ill and well-equipped we are to support each other. The refugee and migration sector in the United Kingdom is a case study of these issues.

**Many [charities] are making huge impact with little resources or broader support.**

People who are refugees, seeking asylum, or other people subject to immigration control are often confronted with multiple, intersectional, social, racial, economic, and environmental challenges; for example, hostility, destitution, homelessness or unsafe accommodation, insecure legal status, unstable and unfavourable employment conditions, lack of access to proper healthcare or other social services, gender-based violence, multiple and long-term health (co-morbidity) conditions, language and culture barriers, racism and discrimination.<sup>2</sup>

The pandemic has heightened and aggravated these intersecting challenges;<sup>3</sup> especially among Black African, Black Caribbean, Asian and minoritised groups<sup>4</sup> who account for over a third of deaths so far.<sup>5</sup> COVID-19 has also laid bare the fact that frontline and infrastructure voluntary sector organisations (VSOs) are lifelines for many people in the United Kingdom and are extremely nimble, creative and entrepreneurial in their dedication to supporting their communities. They, like so many other groups, are resilient, fighters, and extremely hopeful. Many are making huge impact with little resources or broader support and are predominately powered by trust, foundation and other individual or independent philanthropic funding.

Mindful of this and the need to build evidence and practice from a sector lens, Migration Exchange commissioned a review of emergency funding to the refugee and migration sector during COVID-19, focusing on the early phase of the pandemic from March – November 2020. The objective of this rapid review is to surface descriptive and early quantitative answers to key research questions on scale and type of independent and statutory funding, purpose and process of the funds, grant distribution across the UK, the size and focus of recipients, intersectionality of issues, gaps in data and knowledge, and legacy and learning from this period (see *Methods* section for detailed research questions).

To answer these questions, we drew on available public and private literature, interviews with 16 independent foundations (including two statutory funders),

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### CASE STUDY 1. Respond and Adapt Programme (RAP)

RAP was a collaboration between Refugee Action, NACCOM and Migration Exchange, which provided targeted grants to frontline organisations in support of the UK migration and refugee sector. A total of £2,137,000 has been granted to 130 organisations across the UK. Grants were for 12 months and ranged from £10,000 to £45,000 towards meeting immediate needs and adapting services to COVID-19. The grants programme was invite-only to ensure a spread of organisations across the UK received support.

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**REFUGEE ACTION**

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THE NO ACCOMMODATION NETWORK

**We hope this rapid review continues to prompt brave thinking and action.**

and where available their raw grant-making data, as well as publicly collated data from 360Giving's COVID-19 Grants Tracker.<sup>6</sup> We complemented the funder perspective by interviewing nine frontline refugee and migration charities who provided on the ground insights and experiences (see *Methods* section for more).

A story is emerging from this data. To tell it, we have structured our report by:

1. Providing an overview of COVID-19 funding, centred on existing literature, and have grouped our findings as high-level 'perspectives' on:
2. Funder practice – what do we know and where are the gaps,
3. The frontline – what did we hear from refugee and migration charities,
4. The numbers – what numerical pictures are emerging based on an analysis of all raw and public grant-making data, and we have summarised our findings and interpretations in the form of 'reflections' on
5. What might come next.

As the pandemic continues to have grave implications for our society, we hope this rapid review continues to prompt brave thinking and action, especially by those who have the independent means to take more risks and shore-up and sustain the vital work of the refugee and migration sector. We also hope independent funding can catalyse constructive government attention and positive action in policy and practice, including more investment and funding.

## 3 Overview of emergency funding

At the time of this review, there remains very little public literature on independent or statutory grant-making to the refugee and migration sector in the UK, or elsewhere, during COVID-19. This is not surprising. Intelligence gathering, learning, and research was and is happening as the sector responds and adapts.

Based on data published by UK grant-makers in the 360Giving Data Standard and its subsequent COVID-19 Grant Tracker, approximately £380 million worth of grants have been distributed by 99 funders at the time of writing.<sup>7</sup> These grants were made by a combination of independent trusts and foundations, The National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF), local government and some central government (re-granting to intermediaries).

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### CASE STUDY 2. The Barrow Cadbury COVID-19 Support Fund



Barrow Cadbury Trust partnered with The National Lottery Community Fund to distribute COVID-19 emergency response funding to the migration and refugee sector in England. £5 million was distributed to relieve hardship caused by the pandemic among refugees and migrants experiencing barriers to accessing services. The Barrow Cadbury COVID-19 Support Fund was one of eight partnerships, funded by The National Lottery Community Fund, to ensure £59m of National Lottery funding reached communities most vulnerable to the impact of COVID-19.

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Independent trusts and foundations have led the way in responding to the critical needs of voluntary sector organisations (VSO).<sup>8</sup> Perhaps the earliest coordinated response was by London Funders with their 'We Stand with the Sector' programme.<sup>9</sup> This pledge committed funders to support organisations affected by the outbreak. Over 350 funders from across sectors came together to sign the joint statement agreeing to adapt timeframes, provide financial flexibility, listen and support grantees and if needed, modify agreed outcomes.<sup>10</sup> The London Community Response Fund (LCRF) was established as aligned and pooled funds.<sup>11</sup> £46 million has already been distributed by the Fund (LCRF).<sup>12</sup>

Many other major and coordinated pledges and funds immediately followed the LCRF response. This included a pooled, intermediary grant-making fund<sup>13</sup> established by Migration Exchange in partnership with Refugee Action and the No Accommodation Network (NACCOM) [Respond and Adapt Programme](#) (RAP) and an external delegated fund by [The National Lottery Community Foundation with the Barrow Cadbury Fund](#). Although these were the only two dedicated refugee and migration sector funds, many other significant aligned and pooled generalist funds emerged, including the Access to Justice Foundation's *Community Justice Fund*, *National Emergencies Trust* cross sector alliance, and the successful Comic Relief and BBC Children in Need's *Big Night In* fundraising campaign. (Please see *Numbers* section for a detailed quantitative analysis of these programmes.)

Over the course of this phase of the pandemic, Government also provided some support to the voluntary sector. In May, the Office for Civil Society through the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) pledged £750 million to support civil society and those on the frontlines.<sup>14</sup> The funds included the *Coronavirus Community Support Fund*, distributed by The National Lottery Community Fund (£200 million to 8,250 charities in England) and an £85 million *Community Match Challenge Fund* that generated £170 million for charities' distributed by 19 philanthropists, charitable funders and foundations.<sup>15</sup> As part of the Government's civil society response, £60 million went to the devolved administrations, per the Barnett formula.<sup>16</sup> Scotland received £30 million – some of which supported 11 refugee, asylum or migration organisations, including £534,000 to the Scottish Refugee Council.<sup>17</sup> In addition, the Welsh Assembly Government

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### CASE STUDY 3. The Community Justice Fund



The Community Justice Fund is a joint initiative to help specialist social welfare legal advice organisations cope with the immediate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and lay the foundations for longer-term renewal. The Community Justice Fund is a joint initiative between Advice UK, Law Centres Network and Citizens Advice and a group of independent (the AB Charitable Trust, Access to Justice Foundation, Indigo Trust, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, the Legal Education Foundation, Therium Access) and statutory funders (National Lottery Community Foundation, Ministry of Justice and others). It is hosted by The Access to Justice Foundation. The Fund made over £11m in grants to support specialist social welfare legal advice organisations during COVID-19 and from this around £3m of funding supported legal advice work for people who are refugees, asylum seekers, or other migrants subject to immigration control.

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received £20 million and £10 million was allocated to Northern Ireland.<sup>18</sup> Locally, the Greater London Authority awarded close to £9m to the London Community Response Fund out of a total £42m.<sup>19</sup> Please see Appendix One for a full table breakdown of these and other total COVID-19 funding figures.



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#### **CASE STUDY 4. Esmée Fairbairn Foundation**

From the onset of the pandemic, the Foundation has taken a range of actions to reassure grantees they were here to support them during this challenging time. For example, Esmée Trustees agreed an additional £16m in emergency funding, including £14m in Fast Response grants and £2m to contribute to Pooled Funds (e.g. RAP). Fast Response grants were awarded to organisations already in receipt of support from the Foundation, which meant they could respond rapidly to the crisis – streamlining processes so they could get money out the door within two weeks and focusing less on the bureaucracy and more on developing relationships with grantees. The aim was to try and alleviate some of the immediate needs faced by organisations and the communities they serve.

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## **4 Findings & perspectives – funder practice**

The full scope of COVID-19's impact on the more than 570 charities working primarily on refugee and migration issues in the UK is still unfolding. Many funders recognise that the organisations they fund, especially those who provide direct services, are facing the twin challenges of increased demand and decreased revenue, so have shifted resources and practices over the course of the crisis.<sup>20</sup>

Our desk research, confirmed by the 16 semi-structured interviews with funders (including two statutory providers) reveals that, where possible, funders were responsive, flexible and adaptive to the organisations they fund and those outside of their normal spheres 'of concern', including supporting small constituted groups, or hardship or direct services support as well as policy and advocacy work. Broadly, this revolved around the following funder practices:

- Governance and decision-making
- Grant-making process
- Type of grants
- Action learning



## a. Governance & decision-making

Nearly all foundations interviewed mentioned more “effective governance practices” or “increased and better communication with their Board” to make thoughtful but quick decisions about increased endowment spending, provide ‘booster’ grants to existing grantees, support pooled intermediary funds, or even granting outside scope or existing strategies. Specific governance adaptations included:

- Increased frequency of meetings. We heard that many senior leaders and portfolio managers were making decisions bi-weekly, if not weekly, with their CEOs or Board; especially during the height of the pandemic (March to June).
- Increased delegated authority. We heard from the interviews that senior leaders and their portfolio managers, with the support of expert assessors, were given (more) delegated authority to sign-off on grants quickly, rather than having to wait for Board or Board Committee approval. The interviews highlighted the increased level of trust and reliance on foundation staff to make decisions.
- Increased funding. Three of the 16 foundations interviewed noted an increase in their annual grant-making budget by tapping into their endowments to increase budgets for the year (and possibly beyond).
- Creation of new COVID-19 specific funds, realigning grant programmes, and/or working through collaborations or partnerships (like those identified above) to shift or share governance or decision-making. Our interviews corroborated much of what was written in the literature about collaborations<sup>21</sup> facilitating this ‘delegated expert authority’ outside of foundations.

*“In non-COVID times it usually would take five to six months to make a decision but during COVID-19, decisions were made in weeks. It felt like we needed to get money out the door quickly.”*  
**Portfolio Manager**

## b. Grant-making process

All of the desk research cited how trusts and foundations loosened or eliminated grant restrictions, reduced what is asked of grantees and how it was asked (applications), and provided top-up or additional funding to their existing portfolio of grantees.<sup>22</sup>

Our interviews confirmed these findings and others, specifically:

- All 16 foundations interviewed reached out to existing grantees through phone and support calls to ascertain need and make adjustments.
- Two funders interviewed were proactive in their COVID-19 grant-making – either by proactively providing grants (e.g. no application process) or inviting conversations and providing unrestricted grants (as opposed to open calls for proposals or applications).
- One funder noted that they found it difficult to distribute funding fast enough (in the first few months) but this changed quickly as the pandemic wore on.
- Two funders mentioned that a handful of charities returned funding or did not accept top-ups because there was not a need.
- Many of the funders interviewed noted bringing in independent external assessors to support sifting of applications and ensured that many of these assessors were experts in the sector and some sat across collaborations or programmes to support ‘joined-up funding’.

- Many of the collaborations encouraged the use of a single portal or point of contact, where possible, so that access was easy for both applicants and funders.<sup>23</sup>
- Many of the funders interviewed are also strengthening their grant-making process to be more equitable and inclusive – by unrestricting funds, changing or pooling applications and reporting tools or removing these processes altogether, bringing in equity assessors or learning partners or introducing strict requirements like applicants needing to be 50% by and for led in their senior leadership team or Board.<sup>24</sup>

*“The criteria was so, that if an organisation applied to one of the emergency funds, then they could not apply for the same project when applying to another one and vice versa. There was a requirement that the projects had to be different.”*

**Foundation Director**

According to the desk research and in the interviews with foundations, challenges occurred in the grant-making process when the ‘end funder’ or partner in a collaboration was a statutory or Government source. The requirements of these partners made grant-making slower and more restrictive (such as no direct cash support of individuals or groups). For example, it was not until November that all of the DCMS/Lottery funding had been allocated.<sup>25</sup> Any grants linked to a statutory funder (DCMS, MOJ, Home Office) had variable ‘spend by’ dates, from three to six months on receipt of contract to the consistently cited, all statutory funding must be spent by 31 March 2021 and only registered charities, CICs, CIOs and constituted organisations were eligible for support. A number of foundations interviewed also mentioned more due diligence work behind the scenes to make sure charities were not being double funded.

### c. Type of grants

Our interviews also confirmed what was in the existing literature about the type of grants awarded during the period. The initial wave of COVID-19 funding focused on emergency support (e.g. food and digital poverty) but since that time charities have sought funding for legal advice, information and guidance, mental health and other wellbeing support (e.g. themselves and their clients), employment, destitution and homelessness and support structures.<sup>26</sup>

From the interviews, the most cited COVID-19 support to the refugee and migration sector, beyond unrestricted core funding, was for ‘information, advice and guidance’, poverty or destitution (food, money, digital, and housing), and health and wellbeing support (especially by Black African, Black Caribbean, Asian and other Minoritised Ethnic led organisations and those working on the frontlines of the health emergency or requiring bereavement support as a response to how COVID-19 was disproportionately impacting these communities more than others).<sup>27</sup>

Both our interviews and analysis of the raw and public grant-making data revealed how issues experienced by the refugee and migration sector intersected with other social, economic, and racial issues. This intersectionality played out in grants made and the funding process as well, by both specialist and generalist funders. In particular, nearly all foundations interviewed spoke about how their refugee and migration funding did or will intersect more with issues of race, religion, or culture insofar as the pandemic is disproportionately impacting Black African, Black Caribbean, Asian and other Minoritised Ethnic communities. Discussions around types of funding and ‘intersectionality’ centred around funders’

*“The long-term impact of the pandemic on disadvantaged groups, like refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, has only been exacerbated. Issues like poverty, mental health, destitution were identified prior to COVID-19 but are now magnified. The scale of the challenge for refugee, asylum and migration funders will entail re-planning to look at a longer-term view.”*

**Foundation Director**

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) policy and practices. Especially in how lived experiences of people who are refugees and migrants, particularly those who identify as Black African, Black Caribbean, Asian or Minority Ethnic, has been made worse or intensified by the convergence of the pandemic, the death of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matters movement. Although many funders interviewed had pre-existing programmes on racial justice or lived experience, all recognised the very pressing need of certain communities. Funders felt that this was just the beginning of their response to racial equity and justice and that they had more to do to address structural racism and inclusion in their own organisations.

In addition, many of those interviewed mentioned the hostile environment to people who are refugees, asylum seekers and migrants and the need to use their current and future funding to curb not only lived hostile experiences, but also the need to counter negative public perception and increased antagonism.

Please see our Numbers section for a full analysis of how grants were being described and how issues ‘intersected’ from the raw grant-making data.

## **d. Action learning**

According to the desk research and complemented by the interviews, funders are taking a live action learning and adaptation approach to the pandemic (although complemented by deeper evaluations), not least because there remain so many unknowns on its medium and long-term impact. Collaborations were reported as positive overall in various publications and in our interviews. These collaborations were seen as positive for many reasons, including the fact that they:

- enabled funders to respond more easily, more strategically, and nimbly to the crisis<sup>28</sup>
- encouraged the use of a single portal or point of contact, where possible, so that access was easy for both applicants and funders<sup>29</sup>
- exposed new, smaller groups to funding and funders<sup>30</sup> and
- brought together external expert assessors to support the decision-making process.<sup>31</sup>

As the impact of the pandemic unfolds, trusts and foundations also continue to:<sup>32</sup>

- deploy expertise – using partner organisations to ensure funds reach the most in need
- create new funds and/or realigning grant programmes
- increase flexibility around reporting and payment schedules
- convert restricted grants to unrestricted funding
- provide top-up funding
- engage in advocacy.

Since the initial wave of emergency support, funders have started to take stock and look to what resilience and recovery might look like. In particular, we found in the interviews that:

- All funders who participated in collaborations like the Respond and Adapt Programme, the Community Justice Fund or the London Community Response Fund spoke highly and positively about how these alliances promoted live

*“The Respond and Adapt Programme proved to be a very positive experience with collaborative funding. It enabled a small foundation like my own to respond in a quick and effective way that we would not have been able to do on our own.”*

**Foundation Director**

- and frequent information, data sharing and learning and are keen to see this coordination continue, in whatever way, shape or form.
- Nine funders interviewed found that most of their grantee organisations were stable, at the moment, because many have been able to access unrestricted, emergency and/or programmatic funding but most were worried about the medium-term ‘cliff-edge’ of post March 2021 spend deadlines or when all of the emergency statutory funding ends.
  - At the time of our interviews in November 2020, all foundations had either re-opened their normal grant-making programmes, re-launched new strategies, or are working towards developing new strategies centred on anticipated needs.
  - Three funders mentioned they are looking towards systems change to address the needs and social problems unveiled by the pandemic. Inequality and racial justice are among the issues identified by these foundations.
  - Most of those interviewed did not want to go back to the status-quo of short-term restrictive funding, recognised that more long-term unrestrictive support was needed, with a focus on policy and campaigning work, and that they may have to take much stronger stances on key issues like racism or the hostile environment being faced by people who are refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.

## 5 Findings & perspectives—the frontline

According to the *Taking Stock and Facing the Future Report*, there are more than 570 charities working primarily on refugee and migration issues in the UK, with a combined income of £117 million per annum, predominately based in England and Wales. During the pandemic these groups, and the communities they support, are facing an avalanche of new and ongoing challenges, including loneliness, social isolation, food and digital poverty, loss of employment, legal advice and support, destitution/homelessness and a lack of support structures.<sup>33</sup> They are also heavily reliant on the support of trusts and foundations to deliver their essential services.

Mindful of this, we felt it was important to complement our desk research and foundation interviews with specialist refugee and migration frontline charity interviews. Although these frontline interviews confirmed much of what was found in other work, their insights and experiences have disclosed some rich anecdotal evidence. Based on the literature and interviewed participants’ experiences, we have grouped our findings by how VSOs are:

- Accessing funding
- Responding to or leading change
- Creative and entrepreneurial
- Learning

## a. Accessing funding

Though COVID-19 has presented many challenges to organisations working on refugee and migration issues, a clear ‘bright spot’ has been that many have accessed financial support, especially those who are a registered charity.<sup>34</sup> However, many small grassroots refugee, asylum and migrant groups that are not registered charities, were not eligible for many of the funding pots.<sup>35</sup>

**Several organisations interviewed spoke about joined up approaches to fundraising and direct service delivery.**

Collaborations like the Respond and Adapt Programme, the London Community Response Fund, the Community Justice Fund and ‘The Big Night In’ helped make some specialist frontline providers more visible to new and previously unknown funders. These collaborations also facilitated concerted funding for those outside London;<sup>36</sup> although Greater London received the biggest proportion of funding. (See Numbers section for more on geographic spread.) Partnerships between VSOs were also important because they enabled information sharing, brought different sectors together (e.g. refugee, asylum and migrant and homelessness) and allowed for sharing of data and referrals.<sup>37</sup> Several organisations interviewed spoke about joined up approaches to fundraising and direct service delivery (especially among those organisations who serve as support hubs for un-constituted groups or who had Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) qualifications when others did not).

Many organisations who rely on income from grants seem to have weathered the COVID-19 pandemic better than those VSOs whose income comes from other sources, including gifts from major donors, gifts from individual donors and earned revenue.<sup>38</sup>

One benefit of the pandemic has been the quick turn-around time for decision-making by trusts and foundations. Both VSOs and foundations stated they hoped this would continue. Unfortunately, as mentioned elsewhere in the report, statutory funding took longer to be distributed and entailed many more hoops. Those who were unsuccessful or never applied to the COVID-19 emergency funds, felt there could have been too much competition for limited resources, the application process was difficult, the minimum financial requirements were prohibitive, or they lacked ICT skills to fill in forms on-line.<sup>39</sup>

A few VSOs mentioned application fatigue. According to *Taking Stock and Facing the Future*, 51% of NGOs working in the migration and refugee sector have an income of less than £250,000, which may mean some of these groups have limited fundraising capacity in already stretched teams.<sup>40</sup> With so many funds coming on stream, a number of VSO leaders felt overwhelmed and under-resourced to take advantage of some these programmes.

While there were many funding programmes available during the COVID-19 pandemic, and many working in the migration, refugee and asylum field were successful in accessing them, funding nonetheless has emerged as a key concern for the longer-term future of these groups.<sup>41</sup> All interviewed charities stated they would like to see foundations continue to provide unrestricted long-term funding and support and consult or co-design with them how the pandemic will impact future funding.

Please see *Numbers* section for a full, collated, analysis of who received grants, for what described purpose, and their geographical spread.

## b. Responding to or leading change

The impact of COVID-19 seems to differ by the type of work carried out by a VSO. Direct service delivery organisations rate the negative impact of COVID-19 significantly greater than those whose work is primarily advocacy and campaigning.<sup>42</sup> In terms of funding, the majority of refugee, asylum and migrant groups who received support were reacting to the crisis, providing frontline services (e.g. essential supplies, food parcels, digital aid, housing advice, mental health support).<sup>43</sup> This corresponds to the type of funding and criteria of programmes, which included meeting the emergency survival needs of people and supporting frontline organisations.<sup>44</sup>

However, what is not well known or publicised, but made apparent in our interviews, was that frontline organisations, in their service delivery, were also leading the funding agenda. For example, one organisation we spoke to, which had experienced an increase in requests for information, advice and guidance as a result of a COVID-19 outbreak in a factory with predominately migrant workers, led local government funding and delivery response.

Organisations working primarily on refugee and migration issues are confronting additional challenges in meeting community needs in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, from lack of technology to increased secondary trauma. Both the desk research and interviews with VSOs identified similar issues across the board. Beyond the desire for unrestricted core funding, information, advice, guidance, and hardship support (e.g. people at risk, destitution, poverty) were the most frequently cited reasons for funding requests by VSOs and funders.<sup>45</sup> Digital poverty also came up in the review as an area of unexpected need during the crisis – both needed by frontline charities and those they are supporting.<sup>46</sup> Many of the emergency funds responded to this need, but these issues are likely to remain an ongoing concern beyond the pandemic because of all of the uncertainty.

### **Frontline organisations, in their service delivery, were also leading the funding agenda.**

In addition to the needs listed above, health, and wellbeing was frequently cited as a reason for funding requests by VSOs and funders.<sup>47</sup> Recent COVID-19 literature also referenced Black African, Black Caribbean, Asian and other Minoritised Ethnic-led VSOs needing more and deeper health and wellbeing support (especially for those working on the frontlines of health emergencies, poverty, trauma or in communities where 'oppressive structures have been internalised').<sup>48</sup> The pandemic has made this need more urgent.

The desk research also mentions the importance of 'Funder Plus' to support the needs of an organisation. For example, through RAP a package of support for grantees which was developed in conjunction with Lloyds Bank Foundation, who have expertise in capacity building small charities.<sup>49</sup> Networking was also highlighted in many of the reports, as being a crucial lifeline for the refugee, asylum and migrant sector. For instance, the [Information and Data Hub](#), established in April 2020, is seen as a safe space to share material and learn about the current information on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on people in the immigration system and the organisations supporting them.<sup>50</sup>



All VSOs interviewed said that trusts and foundations have been helpful to their organisations during the crisis. They mentioned that their funders (and in a few instances, past funders) reached out to them to find out how the pandemic is affecting the people and communities the organisations' serve and if they had any pressing financial needs.

### c. Creative and entrepreneurial

What has really emerged from our interviews with the nine VSOs is how creative and entrepreneurial, not to mention strategic, they all are in the face of challenge. One anecdote provided by a charity really speaks to this. This charity, while at the cold face of leading local government response to both a health emergency and a migrant crisis (e.g. migrants brought to the UK from abroad to work in a local factory where a massive COVID-19 outbreak occurred) were also seeing and seeking opportunity in commercialising their information, advice and guidance work to British citizens abroad, who were wanting to return to the UK to retain their settled status.

This creativity and entrepreneurialism were also evident in how VSOs responded to receiving unrestricted and restricted grants from funders. At least three VSOs interviewed stated the restrictive nature of statutory funding meant they had to be more entrepreneurial about restricted and unrestricted budgeting and spend to ensure costs were covered beyond the March 2021 'spend by' date.

Like funders, VSOs have been undertaking more collaborations than they have ever done before (e.g. the Respond and Adapt Programme). The partnerships seem to include more communication between and amongst groups and appears to be more coordinated. All the leaders interviewed hope this practice continues post-pandemic. As previously mentioned, it seems this crisis has really encouraged creative knowledge sharing and more joined-up (mixed expertise or specialist) working between different frontline providers.

*"COVID-19 opened doors to funders that we knew of and those we had never had contact with before. This enabled us to showcase our work, expand our services and develop referral pathways, in particular with the Council. This has led to a new contract with the Council and has provided us with an opportunity to push our advocacy and campaigning work. The challenge is who will fund the policy development."*  
**VSO leader**

### d. Action learning

In the first few months of the pandemic, it was only right that foundations focused their support on emergency needs – this is what the VSO sector required in order to support people subject to immigration control and unable to access mainstream support or social safety nets. As we move from an emergency to resilience and recovery stage, many of the VSOs interviewed mentioned that the refugee, asylum and migration sector has been well-resourced to provide direct delivery work but that they lack the funding to support campaigning and advocacy. Several VSO leaders spoke about how the pandemic enabled them to get a seat around the local/regional statutory table and give their clients a voice, but there is a lack of resources to support this work.

The pandemic has exposed many layers of vulnerability on different segments of the migration and refugee sector: homelessness, domestic violence, women and girls, people with disabilities and underlying health conditions, among others. It seems the economic crisis brought on by the pandemic means migration



and refugee sector organisations are seeing an increase in unmet basic needs, such as cash, food, and housing, in the communities they serve.<sup>51</sup> But, they are also seeing a rise in mutual aid, support, collaboration and entrepreneurialism (as mentioned previously).

COVID-19's disproportionate impact on Black African, Black Caribbean, Asian and other Minoritised Ethnic groups has converged with the movement for racial justice and the lived experiences of communities which has, in turn, amplified the need for real structural and systemic changes. Many VSOs interviewed felt the philanthropic sector could – and should – do more to address racial justice and other issues affecting these communities. Suggestions have included funding small, unconstituted grassroots organisations, provide unrestricted funding, provide more equity-related grants and use an equity lens in how foundations work and learn and more 'real talk' with those who have lived experience, informing and leading what needs to be done to shift power and make systems change.

## 6 Findings & perspectives – the numbers

The emerging numbers provide an important quantitative complement to what is so far a largely qualitative review.

Based on the desk research, interviewed participants' raw data, and data from 360Giving, we have centred our *Numbers* findings on

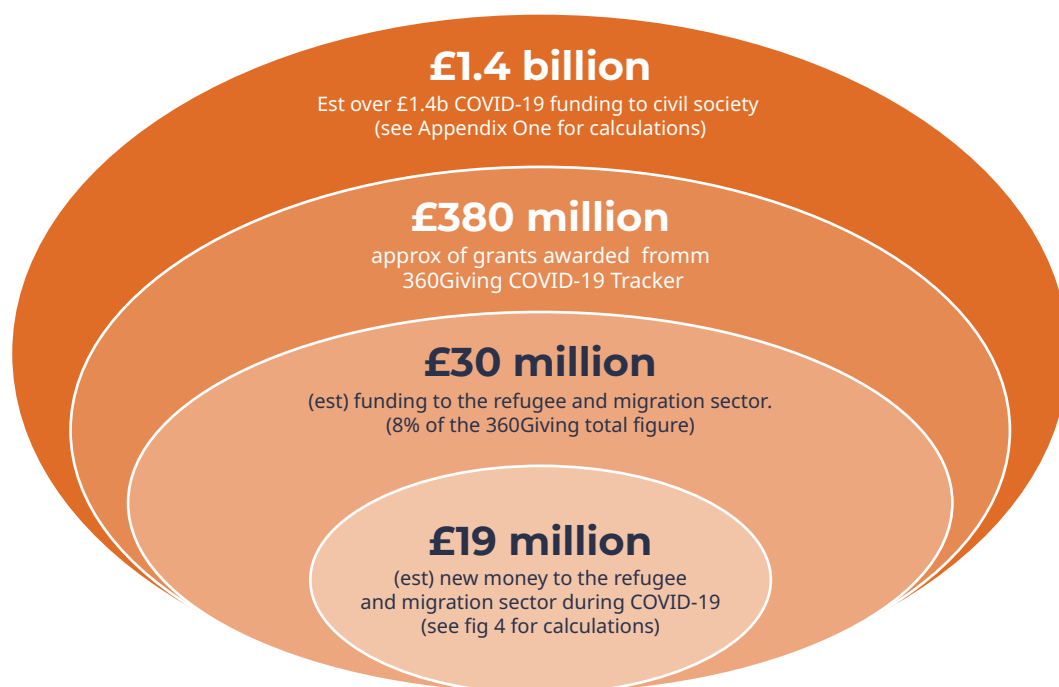
- Scale and type of independent and statutory funding
- Geographical distribution
- Size, focus, and purpose of the grants
- Intersectionality of issues
- Learning

(Please see *Methods* section for approach and data limitations.)

### a. Scale and type of independent and statutory funding

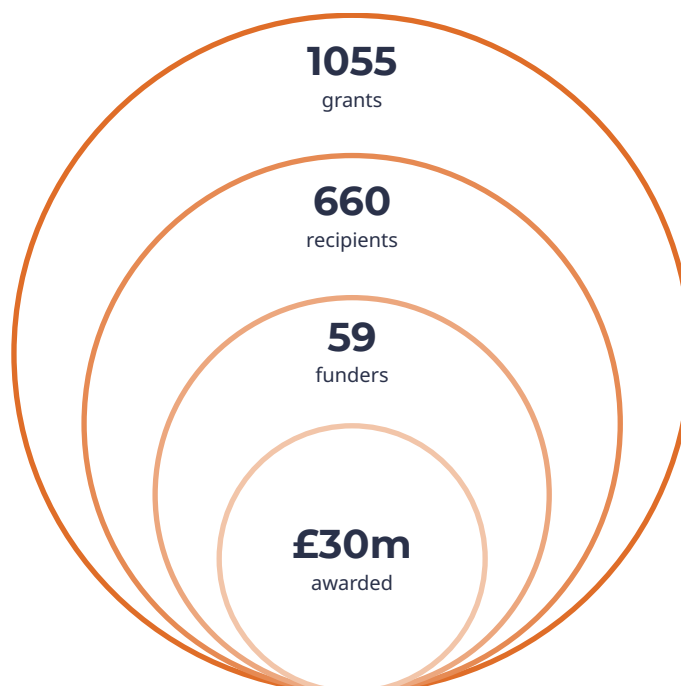
The overall independent and statutory COVID-19 funding landscape is extremely layered and complex. Figure one below attempts to make more accessible this complexity. It starts by benchmarking how the numbers appear and tries to surface what we know about refugee and migration sector funding. As the pandemic unfolds, and funders begin to think about the long-term implications, our hope is that these figures provide a snapshot of grant-making.<sup>52</sup>

**Figure 1: Sample overview of total COVID-19 funding figures (not comprehensive benchmarks)**



When we zoomed into the £30m giving total above, we found that there were 59 unique funders or collaborations, 660 unique grantees or recipients and a total of 1,055 grants distributed across the four nations. This is captured in Figure Two.<sup>53</sup>

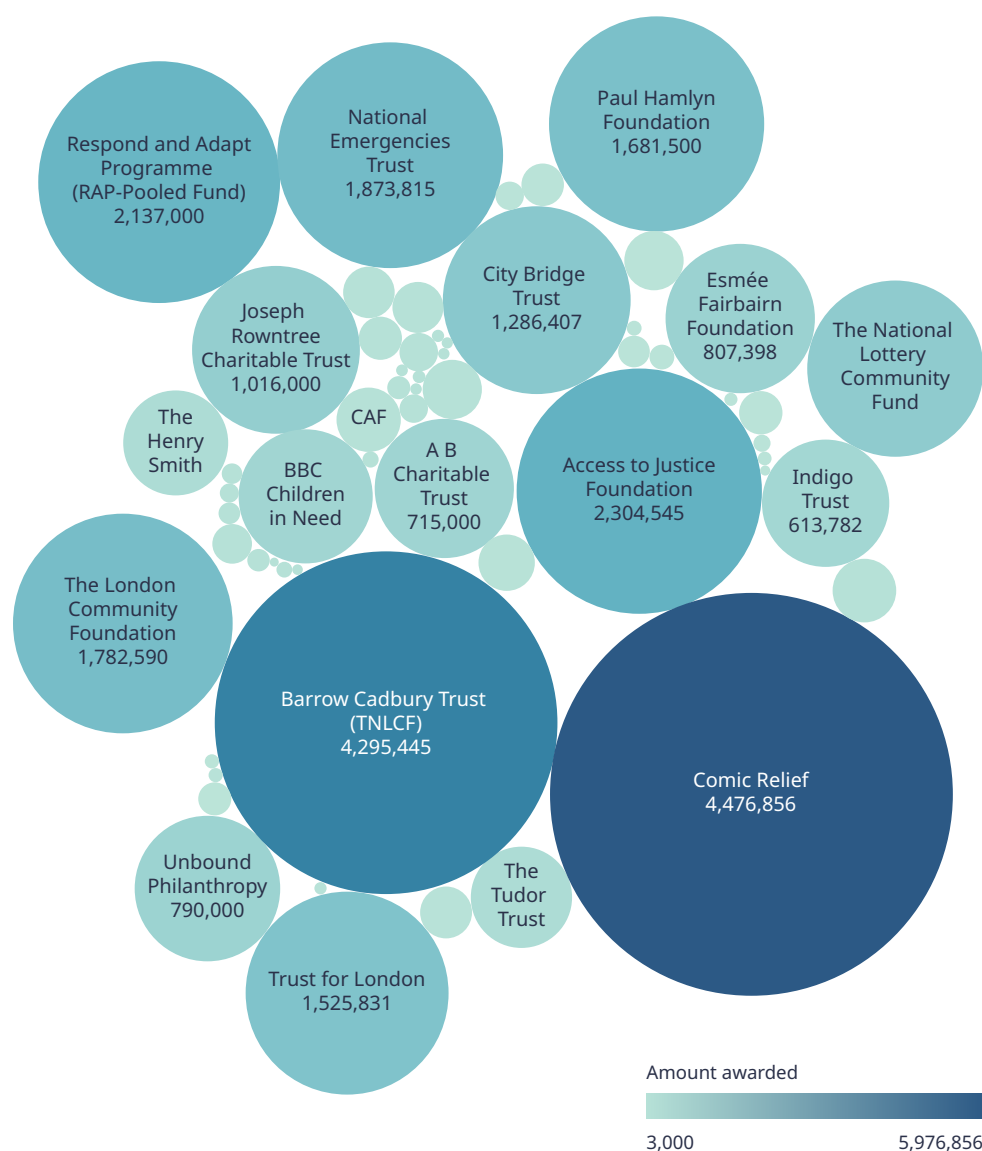
**Figure 2: Overview of scale – refugee and migration sector funding from March to November 2020**



During the pandemic, the biggest refugee and migration sector funder (based on total amount granted or 'out the door') was Comic Relief with nearly £4.5m focused on the sector (even after we discounted contributions to other funds like the Community Justice Fund or RAP). A close second was the Barrow Cadbury Trust-NLCF partnership with £4.3m. The 'smallest' sector fund or funder was Stockport

Metropolitan Borough Council's £3,000 pot (one of the few statistics available about a local government funder). The median size grant was £55,000 and mode (or most popular size) grant was £5,000.

**Figure 3: Refugee and migration funders by total grant-making £ during the period March to November 2020**



A deeper dive into who the funders are and how much they gave, was also revealing and is summarised in Figure Three:

- Although this is not unique to pandemic funding, there was a lot of layered, cross funding or significant re-granting for pooled or aligned funding by many of the independent and statutory funders covered in this review. In calculating the total figures by funder in Figure Three, we have tried to account for this re-granting dynamic.
- For instance, Paul Hamlyn Foundation (PHF) contributed to the Respond and Adapt Programme (£400,000) and the Community Justice Fund (£300,000) which means that the figure against their name represents their minimum commitment level. Put another way and which came out of their raw data, PHF contributed approximately £2.38m to 78 refugee and migration organisations during the pandemic.

- This minimum commitment level is also true for AB Charitable Trust, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, Comic Relief, Barrow Cadbury Trust, and The National Lottery Community Foundation, to name a few. All individually committed more than what is totalled in Figure Three because this accounted for re-granting to others.
- From our interviews with foundations, we also know that the NLCF entered into an external delegated agreement (EDA) with the Barrow Cadbury Trust (a policy and campaigning foundation) to support £5m in re-granting to refugee and migration charities. Importantly, this £5m was NLCF funds and not DCMS or other government COVID-19 re-granting delegated funds to NLCF and others. This new funding, of which about £4.3m has been distributed to the sector went to 169 frontline charities whose income ranged from a top end of £2.3m to low-end of £6,919.
- Similarly, The Access to Justice Foundation's Community Justice Fund (CJF) was in receipt of MOJ and NLCF funding. This pooled fund raised nearly £11.6m of COVID-19 Funding of which about £7.5m was MOJ (£2.4m) and NLCF (£5m). A total of £3,216,219.00 or 47 grants went to asylum and immigration work.<sup>54</sup>

Beyond the publicised big partnerships and what we have outlined previously and in Appendix One, we are unaware of detailed data on central government (e.g. DCMS, Home Office, Ministry of Justice) or Local Government funding to Civil Society. For example, we know from our interviews that Suffolk County Council responded to the COVID-19 outbreak at the Bernard Matthews factory, which had a significant impact on migrant employees, but the funding has not been made public.

We also tried to ascertain how much of the £30m may be new funding for the refugee and migration sector. By our rough calculations, again, based on data directly received from participants as well as data acquired through 360Giving/GrantNav, we estimate that approximately £19m of the £30m was new funding during COVID-19, see Figure Four.

**Figure 4: Estimate of total new COVID-19 (£) money in the refugee and migration sector during the period March to November 2020**

Funder	Total Fund Amount	Est new £ refugee & migration funding during C19
NLCF EDA with BCT	5,000,000	5,000,000
ATJF CJF	11,600,000	2,320,000.00
RAP	2,137,000	2,137,000
NET	60,538,417	1,513,460
LCRF	42,000,000	3,360,000
Comic Relief /BBC Children in Need Big Night In Appeal	67,110,010	4,476,856.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>18,807,316</b>



## c. Size, focus or purpose of grants

From all the raw grant-making data available, we have a very good picture of the size, focus and purpose of the grants (as described by the grantees or recipients). At a high-level, we found:

- Of the 1,055 grants, the smallest grant amount was £500 to voluntary or support groups and the largest was £1.5m (approximate) to Refugee Council from The National Emergencies Trust (NET) Appeal to support telephone helplines, refugee welcoming programmes and the Scottish and Welsh Refugee Councils frontline activities.
- The median grant amount is £18,885 and the mode grant size is £10,000.
- Of the 1,055, 720 small grants (up to £20,000); 291 medium grants (up to £100,000); and 44 large grants (£100,000+)
- Unfortunately, the data we had from 360Giving did not report on income size of organisations. Consequently, our analysis of grantee or recipient organisational size comes from independently submitted data from participating foundations. At the top end, we saw organisation size over £2m and at the low end approximately £7k, and a median of £143k. More work needs to be undertaken to better understand organisation size, especially at the low end, as the pandemic made grants more accessible to those smaller (£10,000 or less size) groups and its revealing that roughly 70% of the grants made were small grants (720 small grants:1,055 total grants).

Amidst an unprecedented pandemic, where speed and information flow may be disjointed, it appears from our analysis of all the data that individual funders were fairly joined up in giving. This is likely because of the sector or thematic specific pooled collaborations that emerged during the pandemic (RAP, CJF, NLCF-BCT, etc). From the data we see that:

- Funding went to 660 distinct organisations.
- Of this total figure, recipients were a combination of core refugee and migration organisations and wider sector organisations.
- We estimate that 67% (444) of the 660 receiving organisations were core refugee and migration sector organisations and the rest went to wider sector organisations
- Of the 660 recipients, approximately 72 or 11% of them received more than one grant

For more detail about the top 25 grant recipients, please refer to Figure Six.

**Figure 6: Top 25 funding recipients during the period March to November 2020**

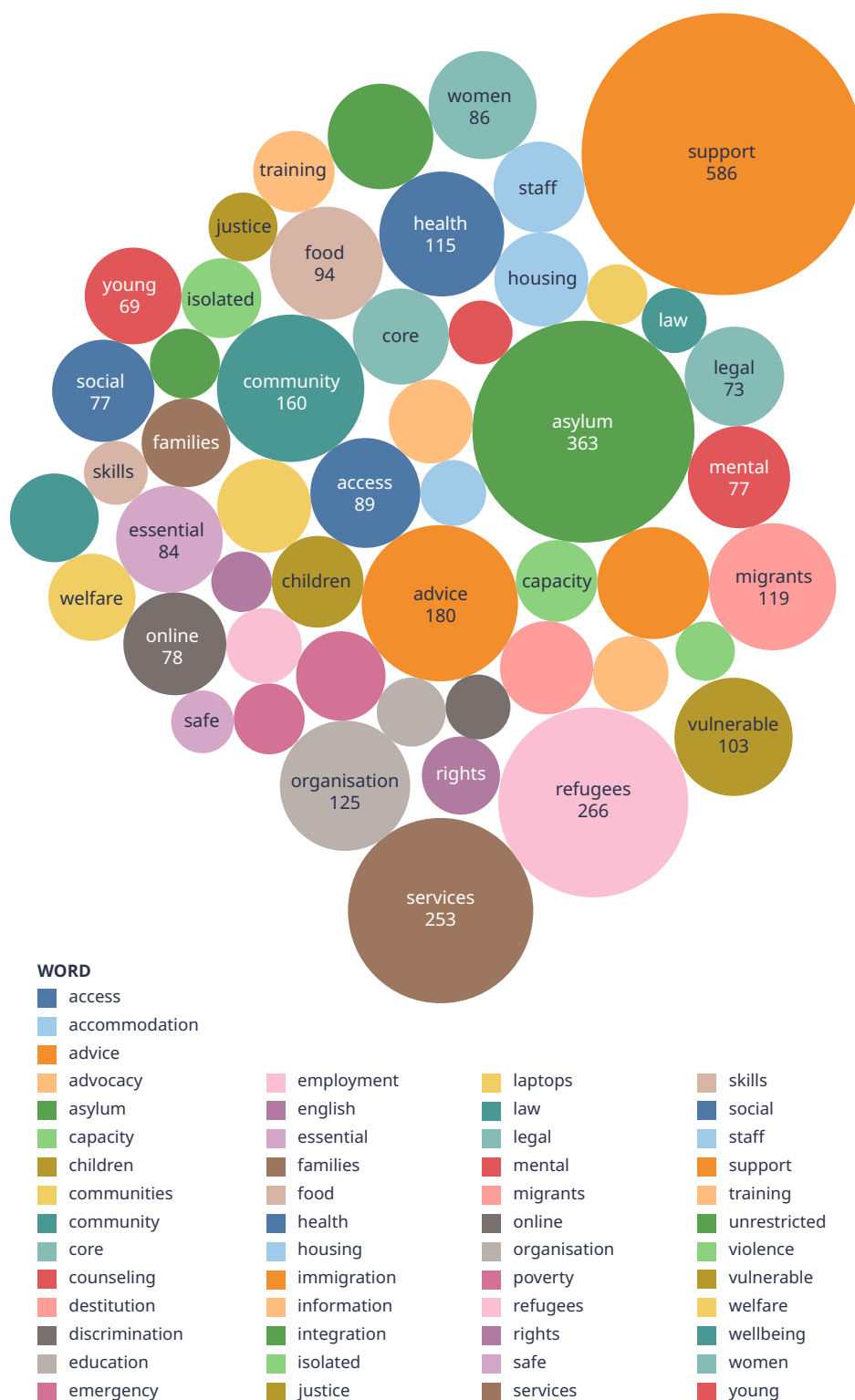
Recipient organisation or collaboration name	Count of grants received	Total £ amount received
Refugee Council	1	1,480,000
Refugee Action	7	1,152,732
African Health Policy Network	4	482,960
London Legal Support Trust	1	463,432
South London Refugee Association	10	421,424
Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit GMIAU	6	404,000
Good Chance	1	400,000
Prism the Gift Fund	1	400,000
United Kingdom for UNHCR	1	400,000
Other Ref & Mig orgs not detailed	1	393,815
Helen Bamber Foundation	6	376,000
European Network on Statelessness	1	363,711
IMIX	3	304,000
Migrants Organise Ltd	11	298,425
Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers	6	289,493
Migrant Centre Northern Ireland	1	275,000
Refugee Women Connect	6	272,770
Central England Law Centre	3	272,149
The Boaz Trust	4	252,220
Legal Education Foundation	1	250,000
Medical Justice Network Limited	1	249,983
Refugee Support Network	9	225,216
Rosa Fund	1	200,000
JustRight Scotland	3	195,000
Bristol Refugee Rights	5	193,400

To analyse and better understand the focus and purpose of the grants (as defined by grantees in the 'grant description' fields in the 360Giving Standard and in the raw reports received by independent foundations), we ran search functions in our database to calculate frequency of words in this field. Our findings broadly



confirm what was found in the desk research and our interviews as the most cited focus areas of activities and need. All funding was for emergency frontline services ranging from: hardship support, food, housing, unrestricted, maintaining services, information, advice and guidance; health, women, legal, vulnerable, and rights. Figure Seven is a numerical summary of our findings.<sup>56</sup>

**Figure 7: Approximately 3500 words were used to describe types of grants received or recipient 'focus' areas. These are the 50+ most frequent words used in the 1,055 grants.**





# 7 Reflections – what might come next

All of the emerging insights and data from this review warrant deeper reflection, conversation, as the basis for future meaningful action. These reflections and the conclusions that follow, are offered by us as authors, rather than by Migration Exchange.

What are some ideas to support a resilient refugee and migration sector through other crises? We hope that there will be few like the one we are currently experiencing and recognise that each crisis brings a unique set of challenges and solutions. With this in mind, we offer a few reflections or ideas for consideration:

- It appears like more work needs to be done on individual and collective real time, live, data and evidence, especially when it comes to statutory data. We remain deeply curious about how much actual central government funding has been granted or re-granted and how local government funding has gone to the sector.
- More sector-wide adoption of data coding standards and frameworks will be helpful. We are aware of work underway by [The Social Innovation Consultancy \(TSIC\)](#), 360Giving, and others to fill this vacuum. What might this coding framework look like for the refugee and migration sector? Or does the pandemic necessitate better diagnosing or other benchmarking/standards of evidence tool for the refugee and migration sector? (Similar to [Project Oracle](#) for youth work.)
- There are many small but vital, grassroots organisations, who have deep relationships and trust in their communities but whose work are invisible to many funders. Unconstituted small [mutual aid groups](#) and [associations](#) have emerged to be pivotal in this pandemic – as a lifeline for many. How are the refugee and migration focused ones making an impact?<sup>59</sup> Our hypothesis from this review, and our experiences elsewhere, is that they are making great impact but are under-resourced and under-recognised.
- Many funders reached into their endowments to provide more money to the sector. But for various reasons, including budget constraints, governance models (e.g. family foundation versus public trust), and existing strategies that some foundation staff were having to make difficult ‘trade-off’ decisions in their grant-making. We are curious about how more discussion with specialist funders on governance and new models of giving might support foundation decision-making in crises.
- Digital exclusion (the physical tools, applications, broadband or other services and train) remains a grave pandemic challenge but especially among people who are refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. Many continue to not have or have limited access and therefore accessing telephone, social or other online helplines is not possible. What are the digital tools being used by these groups, if at all? This was mentioned throughout as a funding focus and issue, but we are curious about its impact among these groups and what a sustainable strategy looks like.
- Anecdotal stories and impressions have been powerful during this period. We understand its academic research limitations, but we think we need to continue

**Unconstituted small mutual aid groups and associations have emerged to be pivotal in this pandemic – as a lifeline for many**

to surface it, listen to it and make it accessible to more stakeholders. Our hunch from this review is that the sector could do with more collated storytelling from the frontline, beyond the written word. Especially when both funders and VSOs spoke about the increased hostile environment to people who are refugees, seeking asylum, or other migrants subject to immigration control. These stories also need to be good stories (from our research we hear that they are limitless), which are showcasing all the amazing work happening every day by local organisations and people who are refugees and migrants. Our hypothesis is that continued exposure of such stories in mainstream media may help with positive action and the Information and Data Hub may be critical to supporting this work.

This review also speaks to the need to continue and amplify the great work of the sector specific collaborations that emerged during the pandemic (Respond and Adapt Programme, Community Justice Fund and all the external delegated partnerships), in whatever way, shape, or form. For all the reasons listed previously, but especially for collective intelligence, action, and power.

## 8 Conclusion

As discussed in this report, there are important lessons for what legacy might look like beyond this pandemic. What is most revealing is that these ideas, in vision and practice, were overlapping across all participating stakeholders and in the available literature. This rapid review put a spotlight on how many and how much people care about each other.

This is why we want to conclude, not with a summary, but a cheerleading megaphone. We hope this might power more care and support for each other during these difficult times but also help everyone take more positive risks to shore up and sustain the refugee and migration sector.

- Please be brave, continue to lean into the uncomfortable spaces, question assumptions that want to return to the status quo (e.g. short-term, restrictive funding) continue to work to the principles in the Funders Pledge that over 350 trusts and foundations signed. Perhaps, start futures scenario planning and action with the sector (seed funding innovation and entrepreneurialism that guards against further pandemics or hostile environments). Provide more unrestricted funding, increase the level of funding to this sector, fund unconstituted, smaller grassroots organisations and be transparent about how the pandemic will impact future support.
- Please be brave about coordinated information sharing, and continued work benchmarking all aspects of the sector (funding, campaigning impact, etc.). Amplify the voices of communities whose voices are least heard, support action-driven collaboration and coordination of funding and networking in order to have a greater impact on refugee, asylum and migrant organisations.
- Please be brave and bold about equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI). Mindful of power dynamics and support the principles of Inclusive Philanthropy or Participatory Leadership (i.e. where the intended beneficiaries are included,

**We hope that your bravery will catalyse the same from others.**

co-designing, if not leading, the process of distributing funds). Invest more in the positive power of community organising/activism and other transformational strategies in order to create a movement to support structural change. We recognise each funder is on their own journey to embed EDI principles into the fabric of their work, and hope they continue to infuse these values throughout their internal culture, systems, and practices and continue to be ambitious about living the future they want to see, now.

- Please be brave and bold about capacity building and harness and amplify the deep commitment of those working in the sector, especially the resilience of individuals supporting refugees and migrants and those with lived experience now taking on leadership roles.

We recognise many other reports have recommended the above, but we think they are important principles worth reiterating.

We hope that your bravery will catalyse the same from others; especially constructive government attention and positive action in policy and practice, including more helpful investment and funding.

As doers and thinkers, ourselves, we promise our commitment and positive action, too.

# 9 Methods

The findings presented in this rapid review are based on data collected, analysed and interpreted by Fancy Sinantha and Barbra Mazur. Aware of ESRC research ethics standards, every attempt has been made to interpret the findings and data fairly and without bias. The approach for this research was action research. Mixed methods were used in this review through a combination of a desk-based literature review, qualitative semi-structured interviews, and early capture and analysis of available grant-making data during the period March to November 2020.

This project is a rapid review, which means there are significant limitations to the research. Given the speed and timeframe for this project, neither the methodology, interpretation of the data, nor responses to the interviews were examined by independent third parties for bias, research ethics, quantitative confidence ratings or statistical relevance.

16 grant-making representatives participated in semi-structured interviews. 14 were independent trusts and foundations and 2 were statutory grant-making bodies. All participants were either Foundation Directors or Fund/Portfolio managers working on refugee and migration grant-making. These participants also represented the four nations (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) as well as regional and local or place-based grant-making.

9 Voluntary Sector Organisations (VSOs) or frontline charity representatives participated in the research. Participants were either, Directors, CEOs, or Head of Fundraising or Business Development or Service Delivery. These participants represented every nation except Northern Ireland and provided some regional context (NE, East, SE, NW).

All participants were identified and known by MEX (either as part of its management committee, broader stakeholders, and/or were grantees of its Respond and Adapt Programme (RAP)).

Grant-making qualitative and quantitative data was sourced directly from interviewed participants as well as GrantNav/360Giving with searches confined to the following headline tags: March to November 2020; COVID-19/Coronavirus/Pandemic; Refugee/Asylum/Migration.

We have made every attempt to clean and avoid cross or double counting among all data sources. We are delighted to share all of the raw qualitative and quantitative data we used to inform this review but especially the *Numbers* section. We have done as much as we could, given the speed of this work, and the research limitations. We know that sharing this will only strengthen the knowledge vacuum as well as provide deeper rigour to our action research approach and method.

Key research questions are:

1. What scale and type of independent funding in response to C-19 has been distributed to UK charities working on migration and refugee issues from March to November 2020?
2. What is known about the scale and type of statutory funding to charities during this time, including that distributed by the National Lottery Community Fund?

3. What do we know about how this emergency funding distributed across the four nations of the UK?
4. What do we know about the size and focus of the organisations who received this funding?
5. What do we know about the purpose of the funding awarded and the process for accessing it?
6. How have refugee and migration issues intersected with other issues through general funding approaches? (including gender, race, poverty)
7. What does the available data on funding so far tell us about what might be needed over the next year, and how is this informing funder thinking?
8. What are the gaps in our knowledge about how funding has been distributed over this period, and how might such knowledge and insight gaps be better addressed in future?

## 10 Definitions & sources

### Definitions

**BAME-led** – Organisation must be led and managed by the communities they serve – at least 51% of the senior management team and trustees are from the community(ies) they represent.

**BME or BAME** – The scope of ‘BAME’ has been understood as Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities that have historically experienced marginalisation, oppression and prejudice. Therefore, also in scope is work that benefits Jewish communities, Gypsy & Traveller communities and some migrant communities.

**Capacity Building** – the process of building or strengthening the systems, structures, cultures, skills and resources and power that organisations need to serve their communities

**CBO** – Community Based Organisation

**CIC** – Community Interest Company

**CSO** – Civil Society Organisation

#### **Different organisations working in the refugee, asylum and migration sector**

- Registered charities in the UK with a primary/exclusive focus on migration and refugee issues
- Small and medium-sized UK charities and voluntary/community organisations
- Organisations that work exclusively on UK migration and refugee issues but are not charities
- Organisations that do not work exclusively on migration and refugee issues but are ‘key allies’ for the sector

**Diversity** – a state in which all people have equal and inclusive access to spaces, opportunities and positions without barriers or resistance.

**Equity** – the absence of avoidable or remediable differences among groups of people.<sup>60</sup> ‘Equitable’ as a funding principle described as ensuring that funding



decisions are as inclusive as possible, consider and intentionally act on power dynamics, and take account of the diversity of the sector – particularly of smaller organisations and organisations working with and led-by marginalised communities

**Generalist funder or organisation** – knowledgeable about a broad range of areas

**Grassroots organisations** – local people working together to find solutions to problems in their communities

**Inclusion** – the achievement of an environment in which all individuals feel respected, are treated fairly and have equal access to opportunities and resources.

**Infrastructure organisations** – providing organisational development support and advocating and raising the voice of small and local charities either locally and/or regionally

**Led-by organisation** – more than 50% of an organisation’s leaders (trustees and senior managing staff) are people with lived experience

**Led-for organisation** – organisation is not led-by people with lived experience but the work is very much centred on these beneficiaries and the organisation ensures their voices are heard

**OISC** – Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner

**Specialist funder or organisation** – knowledgeable about a specific subject area

**VCO** – Voluntary and Community Organisation

**VCSE** – Voluntary, Charity, or Social Enterprise

**VSO** – Voluntary Sector Organisation

## Sources

### Funder interviewees

Unbound Philanthropy – Will Somerville and Jake Lee

Migration Foundation – Juliana Bell

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust – Michael Pitchford

Lloyds Bank Foundation – Caroline Howe

Comic Relief – Hajra Daly

National Emergencies Trust (NET) – Chris Anderson

Barrow Cadbury Trust – Debbie Pippard and Ayesha Saran

Legal Education Foundation – Rachael Takens-Milne

City Bridge Trust – Sandra Jones

Esmée Foundation – Laura Lines

Access to Justice Foundation – Clare Carter

Paul Hamlyn Foundation – Alex Sutton

The National Lottery Community Fund – Emma Wakeling

London Community Response Fund – Geraldine Blake

Trust for London – Sioned Churchill and Klara Skrivankova

AB Charitable Trust – Emma Clarke and Sara Harrity

### NGO interviewees

Refugee Action – Rawan Nuseibeh and Renata Czinkotai

Gyros – Louise Humphries and Armine Nikoghosyan

Action Foundation – Dave Bowditch

Scottish Refugee Council – Flutura Shala

Welsh Refugee Council – Andrea Cleaver

Refugee Council – Sarah Sonne

and Lee Green

Voices in Exile – Mel Steel

Migrants Organise – Zrinka Bralo

Refugee and Migrant Centre – Pam Gill

# 11 Appendix one

Below is snapshot or timestamp of known high-level government commitment as well as select independent foundation giving. Our aim with this table is to provide an emerging statutory funding picture, collated in one place, for 'early' benchmarking. We hope that more transparent and easily accessible data will emerge in the future so that we are all more confident in the funding (£) numbers, especially the granular re-directed government funds.

## Emerging COVID-19 grant-making funding overview (not comprehensive)

Funder or intermediary	Total £ amount (approx)
Department for Culture, Media and Sports (DCMS) <sup>61</sup>	£750,000,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Government – £30,000,000</li> <li>• Welsh Refugee Government – £20,000,000</li> <li>• Northern Ireland Government – £10,000,000</li> <li>• National Lottery Community Fund – Coronavirus Community Support Fund – £200,000,000</li> <li>• National Lottery Community Fund to Community Justice Fund* – £5,000,000</li> <li>• Community Match Challenge Fund – £85,000,000</li> </ul>	
Matched Funding from the DCMS Challenge Fund <sup>62</sup>	£170,000,000
Comic Relief & BBC Children in Need <i>Big Night In</i> <sup>63</sup>	£67,110,010
Community Justice Fund – £11.6m total (less * highlighted above and below) <sup>64</sup>	£4,200,000
Greater London Authority to LCRF <sup>65</sup>	£9,000,000
Justice Together Programme <sup>66</sup>	£8,000,000
London Community Response Fund (LCRF) (less GLA funding above) <sup>67</sup>	£34,000,000
Ministry of Justice to Community Justice Fund* <sup>68</sup>	£2,400,000
National Emergencies Trust <sup>69</sup>	£60,538,417
National Lottery Community Fund to Barrow Cadbury Trust – COVID-19 fund for migration sector <sup>70</sup>	£5,000,000
Northern Ireland Government (less what was received from the DCMS pot) <sup>71</sup>	£5,500,000
Respond and Adapt Programme <sup>72</sup>	£2,100,000
Scottish Government (less what was received from the DCMS pot) <sup>73</sup>	£320,000,000
Welsh Refugee Government (less what was received from the DCMS pot) <sup>74</sup>	£4,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,442,048,427</b>

# 12 Endnotes

- 1 In homage to Home Truths: Undoing racism and delivering real diversity in the charity sector published by Voice4Change England
- 2 [www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/what-is-the-impact-of-the-COVID-19-pandemic-on-immigrants-and-their-children-e7cbb7de/](http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/what-is-the-impact-of-the-COVID-19-pandemic-on-immigrants-and-their-children-e7cbb7de/)
- 3 Ibid and <https://asylumatters.cityofsanctuary.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/117/2020/09/Everyone-Out-Nov-updated.pdf> or <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5801/cmselect/cmhaff/973/97302.htm>
- 4 We are extremely aware of the controversies surrounding the use of BME or BAME as a catch-all abbreviation for certain races and groups and that much live work is taking place to replace this abbreviation and address these controversies. There is growing resentment and calls to cease use of BME or BAME altogether as it wrongly or rightly centres or decentres groups of people who are distinct in history, experiences and culture. We have made all attempts to follow what we are hearing and learning from others in terms of standardise language.
- 5 [www.odi.org/blogs/17059-uk-s-COVID-19-response-can-become-defining-moment-changing-our-approach-refugees](http://www.odi.org/blogs/17059-uk-s-COVID-19-response-can-become-defining-moment-changing-our-approach-refugees)
- 6 <https://COVIDtracker.threesixtygiving.org>
- 7 Ibid
- 8 Voluntary Sector Organisation (VSO) and ‘charities’ and ‘frontline’ organisations are all used interchangeably in this report.
- 9 “We stand with the sector” – funder response to COVID-19 (London Funders, 2020)
- 10 Ibid.
- 11 “Strategic Alignment Network [or aligned fund] is made up of funders who share a mission, strategize together, and work in concert to obtain publicity, traction, and impact — but who still do all their grant-making independently. A pooled fund is a “pot” of money toward which funders contribute and from which grant dollars (or program related investments) are disbursed. Money from the pot is used without distinguishing the original donor.” <https://grantcraft.org/content/takeaways/types-of-funder-collaboratives/>
- 12 <https://COVIDtracker.threesixtygiving.org> and <https://londoncommunityresponsefund.org.uk/news/ps46m-distributed-london-community-response-so-far>
- 13 “An intermediary can be an advisor, an administrator, and a grant maker on your behalf. Some intermediaries are also program builders and network builders. They don’t just process grants. Topically focused intermediaries have their own strategies and objectives, and they fit your grant into that larger strategy. Other intermediaries are simply there to help you get your grant where you want it to go; they don’t have a particular strategy of their own, other than doing it in a professional and legal manner.” <https://grantcraft.org/content/case-studies/working-with-intermediaries/>
- 14 [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) – Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Guidance and support
- 15 Ibid.
- 16 Ibid.
- 17 [www.gov.scot/publications/equality-national-intermediary-bodies-funding-2017-2020/](http://www.gov.scot/publications/equality-national-intermediary-bodies-funding-2017-2020/)
- 18 [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) – Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Guidance and support
- 19 <https://londoncommunityresponsefund.org.uk/news/mayor-provides-ps14m-support-capitals-voluntary-sector>
- 20 ACF, 2020
- 21 COVID-19: Five key-ways foundations are responding’ (Association of Charitable Foundations, 2020)
- 22 ACF, 2020
- 23 Community Justice Fund, 2020
- 24 [www.comicrelief.com/funding/funding-opportunities/the-global-majority-fund/](http://www.comicrelief.com/funding/funding-opportunities/the-global-majority-fund/)
- 25 Hargrave, Civil Society News, 2020
- 26 TNLCF, Learning and insights about COVID-19 Refugees and Asylum Seekers, 2020
- 27 [https://voice4change-england.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/acevo\\_voice4change\\_home\\_truths\\_report\\_final.pdf](https://voice4change-england.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/acevo_voice4change_home_truths_report_final.pdf)
- 28 Migration Exchange & Co, Respond and Adapt Programme Interim Report, Sept 2020 – unpublished
- 29 Community Justice Fund, 2020
- 30 Migration Exchange & Co, Respond and Adapt Programme Interim Report, Sept 2020 – unpublished
- 31 Ibid.
- 32 COVID-19: Five key-ways foundations are responding’ (Association of Charitable Foundations, 2020)
- 33 TNLCF, Learning and insights about COVID-19 Refugees and Asylum Seekers, 2020
- 34 Christie and Baillot, The impact of COVID-19 on refugees and refugee-assisting organisations in Scotland, 2020
- 35 Ibid.
- 36 Migration Exchange & Co, Respond and Adapt Programme Interim Report, Sept 2020 – unpublished
- 37 TNLCF, Learning and insights about COVID-19 Refugees and Asylum Seekers, 2020
- 38 CAF, UK Giving and COVID-19, A Special Report, 2020
- 39 Christie and Baillot, The impact of COVID-19 on refugees and refugee-assisting organisations in Scotland, 2020
- 40 Grove-White, Kaye and Fotoohi, Taking Stock and Facing the Future, 2020
- 41 Lloyds Bank Foundation – Small Charities Responding to COVID-19: Winter Update, 2020
- 42 Migration Exchange & Co, Respond and Adapt Programme Interim Report, Sept 2020 – unpublished
- 43 Christie and Baillot, The impact of COVID-19 on refugees and refugee-assisting organisations in Scotland, 2020
- 44 TNLCF, Learning and insights about COVID-19 Refugees and Asylum Seekers, 2020
- 45 Ibid.
- 46 Ibid.
- 47 Ibid.
- 48 Lingaya, Wrixon, Hulbert, Home Truths, 2020
- 49 Migration Exchange & Co, Respond and Adapt Programme Interim Report, Sept 2020 – unpublished
- 50 Ibid.
- 51 Christie and Baillot, The impact of COVID-19 on refugees and refugee-assisting organisations in Scotland, 2020

- 52 These total figures are comprised of total figures from the table in Appendix One (£1b figure), total 360 Giving COVID-19 Grants Tracker figures at time of writing 1 November 2020 (£380m figure), and combined analysis of interviewed independent funders data and 360 data (£31m figure). We have made every attempt to prevent cross or double counting in all figures.
- 53 All figures are approximate.
- 54 See Methods section for where and how data was sourced and analysed. We are very aware that there are gaps in our data, and this is not a comprehensive picture; rather the hope is to present a snapshot of scale and amount.
- 55 Based on a search in Excel for high frequency words in the 'grant programme title' field of our database.
- 56 Based on our cleaned, raw data, we ran a word 'count' in the 'grant description' fields to ascertain frequency and count of words to present this diagram. See Methods section for where and how data was sourced and analysed. We are very aware that there are gaps in our data, and this is not a comprehensive picture; rather the hope is to present a snapshot of scale and amount.
- 57 "Intersectionality is a theoretical framework for understanding how aspects of a person's social and political identities combine to create different modes of discrimination and privilege. Examples of these aspects are gender, caste, sex, race, class, sexuality, religion, disability, physical appearance, and height" from Wikipedia.
- 58 Although not COVID specific funding. [www.theguardian.com/world/2020/dec/07/game-changer-1m-pledged-to-help-refugees-resettle-in-uk](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/dec/07/game-changer-1m-pledged-to-help-refugees-resettle-in-uk)
- 59 It is worth keeping sight of [Voluntary Sector Studies Networks – COVID-19 and voluntary action: research repository – projects](#)
- 60 ([www.who.int/healthsystems/topics/equity/en](http://www.who.int/healthsystems/topics/equity/en))
- 61 [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) – Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Guidance and support
- 62 Ibid.
- 63 [www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/latestnews/2020/big-night-in-further-total](http://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/latestnews/2020/big-night-in-further-total)
- 64 <https://atjf.org.uk/community-justice-fund-launches>
- 65 <https://londoncommunityresponsefund.org.uk/news/mayor-provides-ps14m-support-capitals-voluntary-sector>
- 66 [www.trustforlondon.org.uk/news/justice-together-initiative/](http://www.trustforlondon.org.uk/news/justice-together-initiative/)
- 67 <https://londoncommunityresponsefund.org.uk/news/ps46m-distributed-london-community-response-so-far>
- 68 <https://atjf.org.uk/community-justice-fund-launches>
- 69 <https://nationalemergenciestrust.org.uk/funding-partners/> – total £ amount obtained through interview data
- 70 <https://barrowcadbury.org.uk/what-we-do/programmes/COVID-19-support-fund/>
- 71 [www.communities-ni.gov.uk/landing-pages/COVID-19-partner-organisations](http://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/landing-pages/COVID-19-partner-organisations)
- 72 <https://global-dialogue.org/respond-and-adapt-programme-rap/>
- 73 [www.gov.scot/news/helping-communities-through-the-pandemic/](http://www.gov.scot/news/helping-communities-through-the-pandemic/) and [www.gov.scot/publications/equality-national-intermediary-bodies-funding-2017-2020/](http://www.gov.scot/publications/equality-national-intermediary-bodies-funding-2017-2020/)
- 74 <https://gov.wales/welsh-government-boosts-support-valued-charities-and-third-sector-organisations-wales#:~:text=Ahead%20of%20the%20Chancellor's%20announcement,the%20Third%20Sector%20Resilience%20Fund>

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**The views expressed in this report are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as the positions of any of the funding organisations or Migration Exchange as a whole.**

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