

Rising to the challenge

Kusuma Trust Annual Review 2020





This page: Floating Classroom
Front cover: Universify

Welcome from our founders

Welcome



“This year, we’ve witnessed what humans can achieve with collaboration.”

The year 2020 was defined by the Covid-19 pandemic. What started as a mysterious respiratory disease in China at the beginning of the year had the world in its grip by March. It tested the limits of healthcare delivery systems around the world, irrespective of economic means. Addressing and minimising the social and economic impact of the pandemic, and its destruction of human life, became the single most important purpose of all governments, as well as civil society.

This year, we’ve witnessed what humans can achieve with collaboration. For the first time in history, a vaccine was created, tested and rolled out on a mass scale in little over a year. The pandemic also clearly reinforced the message that to respond to emergencies effectively, the infrastructure must be in place before it strikes. It can be scaled up, but creating it from scratch is a stretch.

We take much comfort in the fact that the legacy we created in the **Kusuma School of Biological Sciences in IIT**

Delhi came up with a low-cost Covid testing kit, when testing capacity in India was very low. **Transform Schools** reoriented themselves rapidly to give technical support to State governments to facilitate remote learning with resources and training (see page 42). **iPartner India** reached out to their network of grassroots partners to distribute food and essentials to workers in informal sectors who’d been left without any support in one of the strictest lockdowns in the early stages of the pandemic.

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Welcome from our founders

“While 2020 was an incredibly difficult year, it also gave us hope to see our partners tirelessly serving their communities.”



In response to the challenges presented by Covid-19, we gave a larger number of smaller and faster grants, allowing flexibility for our partners to fill the gaps created by the impact of the pandemic. Our grants in the UK supported food banks and local community centres, enabled **Age UK** to reach vulnerable older people who were shielding, allowed **Royal Brompton Hospital** to buy monitoring equipment, and contributed to research into Covid-19 through the Barts COVIDsortium, to name but a few.

In total, we contributed to over a million meals through eight partners for people affected by lockdowns in India, the UK and Gibraltar. We did all this at the same time as seamlessly moving our organisation to remote working.

As the year progressed, significant effort in the philanthropic space was directed towards Covid-19, leaving other causes under-served. So we realigned to make grants in our defined areas of interest and will continue to shape our grant-making in response to the changing circumstances. A total of £2,351,560 was given in charitable grants in 2020 that includes £725,219 for Covid-19 specific grants.

As trustees, we admire the work of all our partners and are delighted to share that many of our grantees were recognised for their contribution this year. **Yes Futures** won a Fair Education Alliance Intrapreneurship Award; **St John Ambulance** won silver in the People Development Programme category of the Learning

Awards; and **Trees for Cities** won the Trees and Learning award at the 2020 London Tree and Woodland Awards.

While 2020 was an incredibly difficult year, it also gave us hope to see our partners tirelessly serving their communities, and adapting to the restrictions and challenges presented by the pandemic. In this review, you'll find our grants active in 2020 and some of the many stories that inspired us. We remain thankful to our staff and partners who have demonstrated tremendous resilience and commitment and stepped up to the challenge.

With wishes for good health for everyone.

Dr Soma Pujari, Co-founder and Executive Trustee
Anurag Dikshit, Co-founder and Chair



Our growth in numbers

In 2018, we set about a shift in strategy to bring the grants we awarded through Kusuma Trust UK closer to our home in London, while also continuing our existing work in Gibraltar. Our key aim was to increase our impact by building strong connections with local partners and the communities they work with.

We expanded our areas of work, which now include special educational needs, informal learning spaces, supporting local hospitals, medical research and green spaces.

As you can see from the statistics opposite, this shift in direction resulted in a huge increase in UK grants awarded, more higher value grants, and many more people benefiting from our support.

Our organisation has grown too. We've taken on new team members to support our partners, as we continue to increase our grant giving in 2021.

Grants



66%
increase in the value
of grants awarded
since 2017/18
2017/18: £1,420,580
2020: £2,351,560

205%
increase in the number
of grants since 2017/18

2017/18: 20
2020: 61



Beneficiaries



2,241%
more beneficiaries in total since 2017/18
2017/18: 306,948
2020: 7,186,367



4,475%
more beneficiaries in India since 2017/18
2017/18: 140,312
2020: 6,418,978

362%
more beneficiaries in
the UK since 2017/18
2017/18: 164,751
2020: 761,389

218%
more beneficiaries in
Gibraltar since 2017/18
2017/18: 1,885
2020: 6,000





This page and opposite:
ZSL London Zoo

ZSL London Zoo cares for 19,035 animals from 592 different species. When Covid-19 restrictions meant closing to visitors, the zoo lost its primary source of funding – entrance fees. We stepped in with a grant to cover more than two months of food and bedding for the animals.

Our work in the UK



Responding to the pandemic and supporting organisations in immediate need played a key part in our work in 2020. Alongside this, we stayed true to our plans and honoured all our existing commitments. Continuing to work in our

three key areas – access to opportunities, health and wellbeing, and community and environment – we also gave new grants to projects that we trust will have the strongest impact on people and places, now and in the future.

Covid-19 grants: Responding to the pandemic



Greenwich & Bexley Hospice

When the coronavirus pandemic hit, we knew we had to act quickly and decisively. Our aim was to fast-track grants to organisations fighting the health and social

impact of the crisis. As well as making grants to new organisations, we supported current partners to adapt their plans for the challenging times ahead.

Making sure people had food and essentials during lockdown

We worked quickly to arrange grants to those involved in food distribution. We partnered with eight grassroots charities to help provide over a million meals to school children and their families, and older and vulnerable adults now confined to their homes.

Supporting young people to thrive

When schools, colleges and after-school projects closed, hundreds of thousands of children risked falling behind with schoolwork and becoming isolated. Our grants

helped organisations adapt their services and extend their programmes, funding everything from online tutoring to emotional support for young refugees.

Being there for healthcare staff and volunteers

Health professionals and volunteers have shown unwavering dedication and strength in the face of unimaginable challenges. We partnered with organisations standing alongside NHS staff, such as **London North West Healthcare Charity** and three London hospices. We also supported research into the coronavirus and funded vital equipment.

“NHS staff and the volunteers that support them have been the backbone of the UK’s response to the pandemic. At Kusuma Trust, we consider ourselves very lucky to have been able to support such valuable work.”

Roisin Blake, Grants Manager,
Kusuma Trust

Supporting outdoor learning spaces during the pandemic

Being in lockdown made many of us truly appreciate how important green space is to our wellbeing. We supported several urban community gardens, making sure volunteering and workshops could take place when it was safe, and organisations could plan for the future.

Inspiring students to reach their potential

According to some teachers, the biggest barrier to young people’s future success is a lack of confidence – something that’s even more common among young people from

economically disadvantaged backgrounds. During the pandemic, we gave a grant to **Yes Futures** so they could develop and pilot a ‘Strengths Toolbox’ to help young people work on their self-esteem,

wellbeing and positive mental health during this challenging time. Our funding covered the printing and posting of 4,375 copies of the Toolbox, and an evaluation of the project so the charity could develop it further.



Yes Futures

Our work in the UK: Covid-19 grants

Investing in research and medical equipment to understand and treat Covid-19

Covid-19 has caused the greatest healthcare challenge in living memory. As well as being able to provide the best treatment and care, it's been vital that medical professionals and scientists understand as much as they can about the disease. We gave a grant to COVIDsortium through the **Barts Charity** appeal for research into the impact of the virus. It's helping find answers to urgent questions, such as why do some people develop severe symptoms and others never get ill despite being infected?

Our grant to **Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals Charity** went towards portable, handheld ultrasound machines and an extracorporeal

membrane oxygenation (ECMO) unit. ECMO is a treatment that adds oxygen to the blood and pumps it through the body, allowing a patient's heart or lungs to rest. It offers the best chance of recovery to even the most vulnerable patients with heart or lung failure – including those with severe cases of Covid-19.

Royal Brompton and Harefield hospitals saw over 200 of the most severe and critical cases at the height of the pandemic, with Covid-19 patients transferred from across London. Every one of these patients had an ultrasound and the hospital's ECMO numbers were the highest in the country and second highest in Europe.

Supporting the Covid-19 crisis was **St John**

Ambulance's biggest deployment since the Second World War. Our grant contributed to the training of over 800 volunteers in first aid and coronavirus care.



Redistributing food and supplies where they're needed most

When the pandemic hit, **City Harvest** quickly scaled up their operation. The food redistribution charity rescues surplus fresh food from

restaurants and wholesalers and redistributes it to organisations across London. During lockdowns, this included charities making up care packages for vulnerable families, or cooking healthy and nutritious meals for NHS workers, older people and others in need. Our grant contributed to over 100,000 meals.

Venture Community Association has been supporting the local community in North Kensington since 1959. During the pandemic, we gave a grant to cover the cost of running their foodbank, as well as personal protective equipment for staff. Our grant to support longer opening hours for their adventure playground was also used in this time. It meant children and families could benefit from a safe space to be.



Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals Charity

Our work in the UK: Covid-19 grants



In 2020, we issued the following Covid-19 grants

Access to opportunities

Ambitious About Autism, to help support young people with autism and their families through Covid-19

Chefs in Schools, for food hampers for families in need

Founders4Schools, to move their careers webinars and educational services online

Give a Book, to distribute books to disadvantaged children

Giving World, to help increase their distribution of goods and food to charities and hospitals

In2Science, to replace their face-to-face programmes with online support, training and new materials

Play for Progress, for one-to-one therapy for unaccompanied young refugees living in London

The Reading Agency, to create a digital platform for their Summer Reading Challenge

Team Up, to recruit volunteers to tutor school students and reduce widening education attainment, and move Team Up's services online

Yes Futures, for a Strengths Toolbox to help young people improve their mental health.

Health and wellbeing

Barts Charity, for COVIDsortium research into the impact of Covid-19, creating a large biorepository

CW+, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital's Charity, to help support frontline staff

Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice, to help make up lost fundraising income and cope with increased demand for community nursing services

London North West Healthcare Charity, to support their staff well-being appeal

North London Hospice, to fund specialist medical equipment for patients

Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals Charity, to buy new intensive care unit equipment to deal with Covid-19

Royal Trinity Hospice, to help make up lost fundraising income and cope with increased demand for services

St John's Ambulance, to train volunteers in Covid-19 care and first aid.

Community and environment

Age UK Kensington and Chelsea, to help distribute food, care packages and support to vulnerable older people

City Harvest, to help them scale up and increase their distribution of food

Hammersmith Community Gardens Association, to keep running their four gardens in Hammersmith and Fulham and welcome new volunteers

Paddington Development Trust, for materials and equipment for the North Paddington Food Bank

The Akshaya Patra Foundation UK, for providing meals for immigrant students stuck in UK due to travel disruption

The Winch, for food and community support in London

The Zoological Society of London for their Emergency appeal to feed and look after animals during lockdown

Venture Community Association, to support the running of their food bank.

Our work in the UK

Access to opportunities



We believe education should encourage the love for learning, not be limited to curriculum, and be accessible to everyone. The programmes we support mainly focus on providing life-enhancing opportunities for education or employment, such as extra educational support, skills

training, work experience, coaching, and volunteering. In 2020, our grants made many things possible – from refurbishing a much-loved adventure playground to developing interactive webinars so business leaders could inspire young people’s future careers.



This page and opposite: Give a Book

The Give a Book charity brings the joy of reading to difficult places, including prisons and disadvantaged schools. During the first lockdown, our grant meant the charity could provide 1,100 books, as part of packages of food and essentials, to 10 London schools – each one helping improve young people’s wellbeing as well as their learning

Our work in the UK: access to opportunities



Ambitious About Autism

Leading the way to a neurodiverse workforce

Across the UK, only 16% of autistic people are in full-time employment. Yet, over three quarters (77%) who're unemployed say they want to work. We're partnering with two organisations helping close this gap and make sure more autistic people get jobs.

We gave a grant to Autism Exchange, an employability programme which offers paid work experience, tailored careers advice and support for autistic 16 to 25 year olds run by national charity **Ambitious About Autism**.

Theo, a participant in the programme, said:
"Ambitious about Autism worked with my school to help me apply for a work

experience role within the Civil Service...over the course of three weeks my life was transformed, and I could see a future. I suddenly became ambitious and realised I want to go to work, and I was able to take control of my life."

When Covid-19 threatened the first-ever Autism at Work Summit, organised by the **National Autistic Society**, we stepped in with a grant to help move this two-day conference online. The hugely successful event gave



National Autistic Society

employers an opportunity to hear from autistic people and the businesses successfully employing them. With live and on demand sessions, the Summit reached over 600 delegates, including 272 autistic jobseekers.

One autistic delegate said:
"I was not sure what to expect and therefore was blown away by the pure and simple message that was shouted out again and again – give us a chance. Thank you for giving me hope and courage."

Evidence based resources and recommendations for schools to help children with special educational needs

We partnered with the **Education Endowment Foundation (EEF)** to help

improve resources for those teaching students with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) in mainstream schools.

EEF carried out an independent review of the evidence on effective approaches. The resulting report offers five recommendations. As well as practical ideas for supporting pupils with SEND, the guidance provides an important starting point for schools to review their current approach.

The online version of the report had 71,000 page views between March 2020 and Jan 2021. More than 20,000 copies were mailed to all mainstream schools in England. And over 2,500 people have also subscribed to the 10-week email series based on the report.

Our work in the UK: access to opportunities

Closing the university access gap

In the UK today, young people from less advantaged backgrounds are far less likely to progress to higher education, in particular to the most competitive universities. To address this, **The Brilliant**

Club charity designed The Scholars Programme – a term of university-style teaching and learning for pupils from under-represented backgrounds.

Our previous grant to The Brilliant Club in 2018 had an impressive impact – at the

end of the programme, 77% of the group said they thought they could go to a highly selective university, up from 21% at the start. So, we decided to continue our support with a second grant in 2020, helping The Scholars Programme to reach a target of at least

3,750 young people in Greater London for the 2020/21 academic year.

Adapting to disruption from the pandemic, The Brilliant Club developed online courses to support pupils, as well as arranging virtual university visits.

“Pupils got so much out of The Brilliant Club, both academically and also through improved levels of confidence. They were inspired. The residual effect may be felt by the pupils in years to come, knowing that going to university is an achievable goal for them.”

Teacher, participating school, Croydon



The Brilliant Club

Our work in the UK

Our active grants for access to opportunities in 2020

Ambitious About Autism, for the Autism Exchange employability programme

The Brilliant Club, for The Scholars Programme which encourages and supports under-represented groups of school pupils to apply for highly selective universities

Educational Endowment Foundation, supporting teachers to use the most effective teaching methods in Maths and Science

Educational Endowment Foundation, for an evidence review on best practice in supporting children with SEND

Harrow Club, to build young people’s confidence and interpersonal skills through ‘debate boxing’

KIDS, for a refurbishment of their adventure playground for young people with SEND

Museum of Brands, giving young learners access to culture and inspiring future careers

National Autistic Society, for online capacity at the first-ever Autism at Work Summit for employers and people with autism

St Paul’s Girls’ School, for a humanoid robot to help students explore coding, robotics and artificial intelligence and 3D reality capture and printing equipment

St Paul’s Girls’ School, to provide computers in lockdown to partner schools

St Paul’s School, to support their bursary scheme

The Sutton Trust, for the Pathways to STEM programme, which supports students from low-income backgrounds to study science, technology, engineering and maths

Universify, to help change attitudes and break down barriers to further education

Venture Community Association, to keep their adventure playground open for additional hours

Wetherby Schools Charity, matched grant for fundraising for local charities.

Our work in the UK

Community and environment



At Kusuma Trust, we're committed to supporting projects that improve green spaces and bring together communities – which has

been more important than ever this past year. Our work in this area also focused on improving air quality, particularly around schools.



This page and opposite: Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

We're partnering with Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, London's world-leading centre for plant science and conservation. Our grant is helping fund their unique Youth Explainers programme, which gives young people the opportunity to volunteer in the Temperate House, the world's largest Victorian glasshouse and home to 10,000 plants, many of which are rare and endangered.

“Our Youth Explainers gain increased self-confidence and self-esteem from participating...and may even be inspired to become part of the next generation of horticulturists and plant scientists that Kew and the world need.” Richard Deverell, Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Our work in the UK: community and environment

Putting down roots for a greener city

We're helping **Trees for Cities** tackle the problem of harmful air pollution by supporting their Planting Healthy Air in Schools programme. Our grant funded the planting of trees and vegetation at two schools, such as putting ivy around their perimeter, which acts as a barrier to some of the nitrogen dioxide from diesel vehicles. Our grant is also being used to measure the impact of this project.

As well as making our city greener, thoughtful use of outdoor spaces in schools can transform them into magical places for children to enjoy and learn. We gave a grant to **The Orchard Project** so that two primary schools in Westminster could welcome their own on-site orchard. Each orchard will have at least five new fruit trees, as well as herbs, bulbs and wildflowers. To encourage biodiversity and wildlife, they'll add bird or bat boxes and bug hotels. Around 120 local primary school pupils will benefit.

"The Kusuma grant enabled the Kensington & Chelsea Foundation to identify and support five inventive and incredibly useful initiatives across the borough. From making friends with bees in the north to rejuvenating a community garden in the south, the positive impact on the mental health of residents of all ages was clear to see." Jon Fryer, Community Engagement and Grants Manager, Kensington & Chelsea Foundation



The Orchard Project



Thrive



Thames Explorer Trust

Our work in the UK

Our active grants for community and environment in 2020

Centre for London, to fund research and guidance on planning for healthier, greener ways of living and getting around

City Harvest, to contribute to the running costs of a delivery van

Global Action Plan, for their Clean Air Hub, a collection of information, resources and expert advice about air pollution

Jamie's Farm, to deliver young people's programmes at Jamie's Farm in Waterloo

Kew Gardens, for the young people's volunteering and training programme, Youth Explainers

Thames Explorer Trust, for advertising and communications for key stage 2 foreshore exploration project

The Beauchamp Lodge Settlement, for a forest school programme aimed at young people in Kensington and Westminster

The Kensington & Chelsea Foundation, to fund projects that encourage local green spaces, bring people together, and promote the benefits of gardening

The Orchard Project, to develop on-site orchards in two primary schools

The Zoological Society of London, to bring a new community and education hub to the Snowdon Aviary at London zoo

Thrive (Society for Horticultural Therapy), for their Working it Out programme, which uses gardening and horticultural training to bring about positive changes in people's lives

Trees for Cities, to fund their Planting Healthy Air in Schools programme.

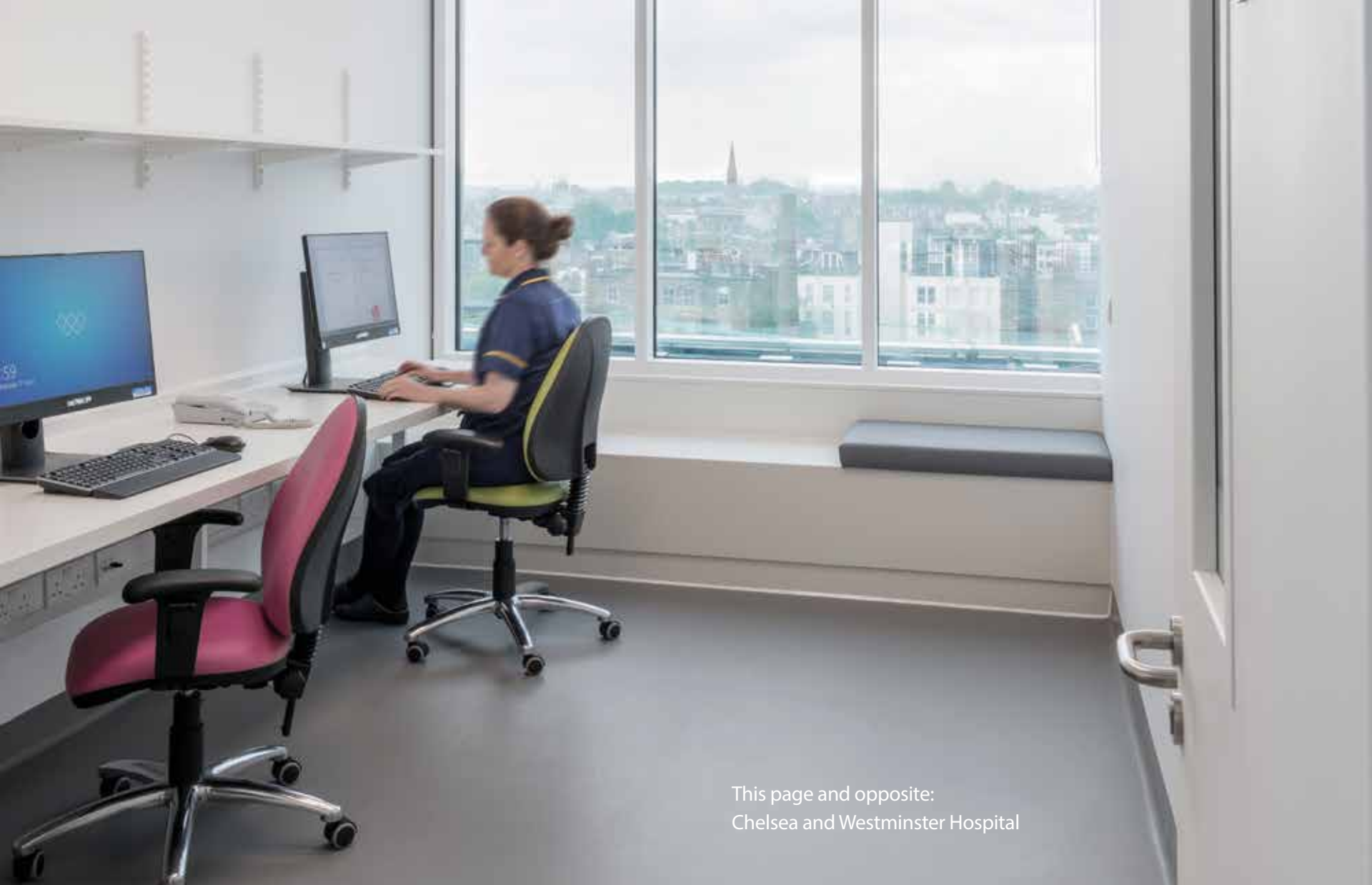
Our work in the UK

Health and wellbeing



Our 2020 grants have been supporting London hospitals to cope with the impact of Covid-19. We've helped them improve their facilities

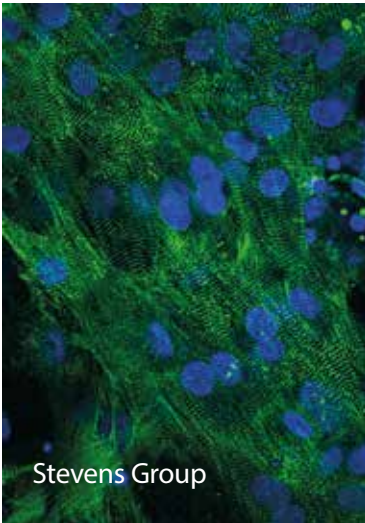
and equipment so they can provide better care for patients. In partnership with universities, we've also continued to back medical research.



This page and opposite:
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital

Chelsea and Westminster is one of the busiest hospitals in the country. To meet rapidly increasing demand, the hospital underwent a £25 million expansion. Our two-year matched funded grant has paid for one of two brand new overnight rooms on the intensive care unit (ICU) for patients' families to stay in. It also funded a research and training facility, offering a mix of patient monitoring, data gathering and teaching sessions for the ICU's team of doctors, nurses, therapists, nutritionists, psychologists and research scientists.

Our work in the UK: health and wellbeing



Stevens Group

Supporting cutting-edge research

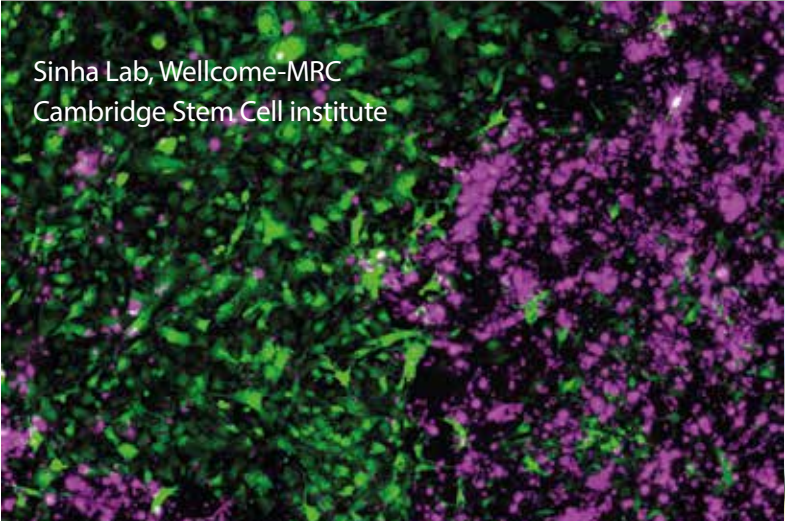
Pioneering science relies on the best equipment. Our grant to the **Wellcome-MRC Cambridge Stem Cell Institute** contributed to a state-of-the-art microscope which will help diagnose, treat and prevent diseases. The new piece of kit offers ‘super-resolution

microscopy’, which can give researchers previously unobserved details of biological structures and processes. Many types of research rely on imaging to interpret changes in the way cells behave, including investigations into aging, injury, and cancers.

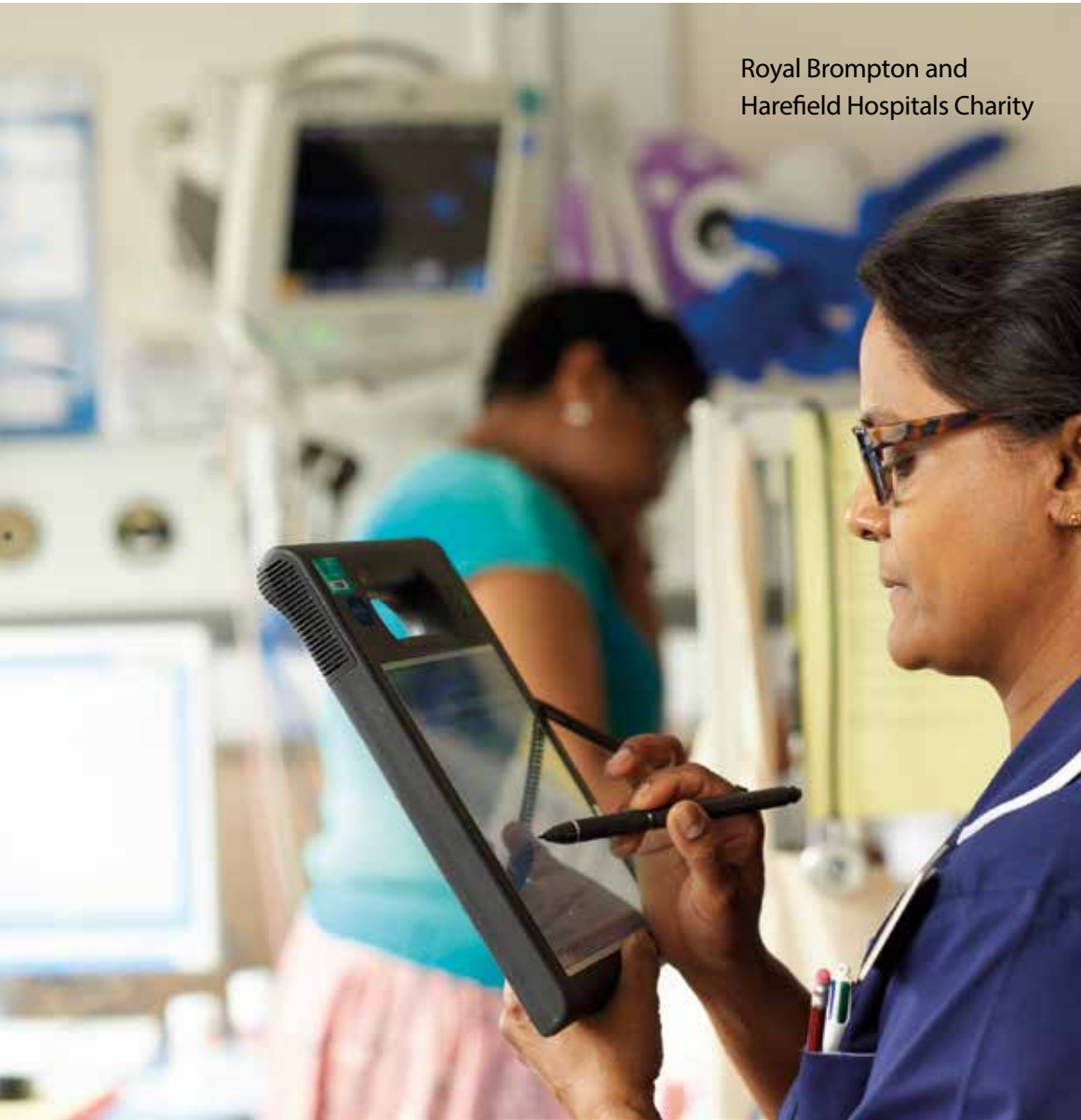
“I’m delighted that, through the generosity of the Kusuma Trust, the Cambridge Stem Cell Institute has been able to purchase and install a new confocal microscope within its imaging facility,” said Professor Tony Green, Director of the Cambridge Stem Cell Institute. *“This super-resolution microscope will allow new approaches to the study of stem cells from many different tissues and organs, in health and in disease, facilitating new discoveries across the stem cell field.”*



Wellcome-MRC Cambridge Stem Cell Institute



Sinha Lab, Wellcome-MRC Cambridge Stem Cell institute



Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals Charity

Our work in the UK

Our active grants for health and wellbeing in 2020

CW+, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, to help fund the expansion of their new critical care unit

Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals Charity, to fund an Organ Care System, a portable transport system for transplant organs

Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals Charity, for an electronic clinical observation system to improve patient care and safety

Sinha Lab (Wellcome-MRC Cambridge Stem Cell Institute) and **Stevens Group** (Imperial College), for research developing an innovative material strategy to heal the heart

University of Cambridge, towards a confocal microscope for the Wellcome-MRC Cambridge Stem Cell Institute and a contribution to artwork in the Institute.

Our work in the UK

Random Acts of Kindness grants



Every year, during the festive season, we make Random Acts of Kindness grants. These are one-off donations of £10,000 for not-for-profit

organisations whose work we want to recognise. Kusuma Trust staff and trustees each nominate a charity to support, anonymously



“Being able to give a Random Act of Kindness through Kusuma Trust was a wonderful opportunity to help in a much more significant way than I could as an individual.” Kusuma Trust staff member

Our work in the UK: Random Acts of Kindness grants

“Imagine your employer coming to you with a £10,000 cheque, asking you to send it on to a charity you love. Really, it was a privilege and a thrill. I felt honoured to be able to make the grant through the Kusuma’s Random Acts of Kindness programme.”
Kusuma Trust staff member



Bow Food Bank

In 2020, we gave the following Random Acts of Kindness grants:

Ace of Clubs, a community providing transformative support for homeless, vulnerable and otherwise marginalised people in southwest London

The Bhavan, the largest centre for Indian Arts and Culture outside of India, offering South Asian music, dance and language classes to over 800 students

Bow Food Bank, an independent charity providing food to the local community in East London

London Friend, supporting the health and mental wellbeing of the LGBT community in London and the South East

London Children’s Ballet, aiming to inspire the pursuit of excellence and change lives through dance

Matt Hampson Foundation, inspiring and supporting young people seriously injured through sport

North London Cares, tackling loneliness and isolation in north London by bringing older and younger neighbours together

Papyrus, a national charity dedicated to the prevention of young suicide

Refugee Café, helping refugees and those granted Asylum in London to build safe, happy productive lives

UNICEF UK Yemen Appeal, supporting emergency aid (nutrition, healthcare and education) for children affected by the conflict in Yemen.

We look forward to hearing how these small charities supported their communities in the coming year.



Matt Hampson Foundation



This page and opposite:
Gibraltar Botanic Gardens

Gibraltar's Botanic Gardens is a popular attraction for visitors and residents alike. In September 2020, we gave a grant to develop a purpose-built education area, where children and adults can spend time among flora and fauna and benefit from hands-on gardening opportunities.

Our work in Gibraltar



Since 2008, we've worked with charities, community organisations and people that are making a positive difference to Gibraltarian society. We responded to the pandemic in Gibraltar with grants to support the community's health,

wellbeing and education. As well as supporting local charities and community groups, we continued to encourage individuals to develop skills and knowledge with our Excellence Prize and Professional Development Awards.

The area will include teaching facilities, a raised pond, wormery, bee hotel, growing areas, sensory garden, children's reference library and a media hub. Young people and adults will be able to volunteer at the gardens and expand their knowledge, skills and understanding of environmental issues.

Our work in Gibraltar



Gibraltar Health Authority

The high-tech simulator helping save premature babies' lives

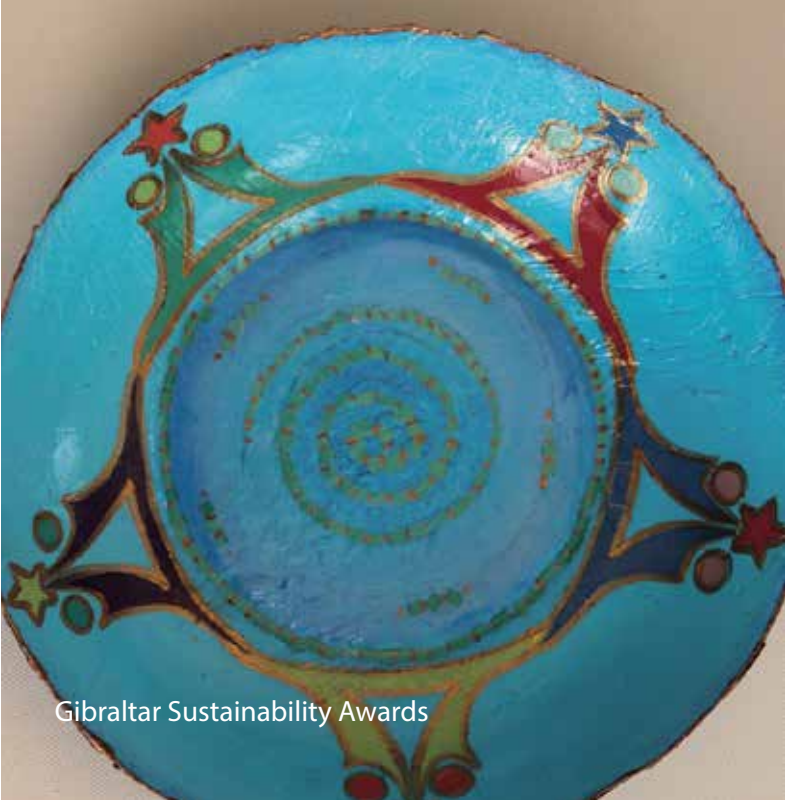
He weighs less than a kilogramme, is just 35cm long, and is helping new health professionals to save lives. 'Baby Paul' is the world's smallest high-end patient simulator – and the most accurate recreation of a baby born in the 27th week of pregnancy there is.

Our grant to **Gibraltar Health Authority** meant they could buy a 'Paul' to be used to deliver training at paediatrics and maternity departments at St Bernard's Hospital. With one in 10 babies born premature and needing specialist care, 'Baby Paul' is a vital addition to the team. He's also involved in cross border collaborations and training sessions at hospitals in Malaga.

Celebrating sustainability in Gibraltar and beyond

We supported the first-ever **Gibraltar Sustainability Awards**, which took place in October 2020 in a ceremony broadcast by GBC (Gibraltar

Broadcasting Corporation). The 12 award categories recognised initiatives making a difference in a range of areas, including alleviating poverty and hunger, gender and social inequalities, and the circular economy.



Gibraltar Sustainability Awards

"Sustainability is about much more than environmental concerns, It's about fulfilling our needs today without compromising the needs of our future generations. At Kusuma Trust, we've always been committed to investing

in our local community and environment. But we also want to invest in the future. That's why we were so pleased to support the Gibraltar Sustainability Awards."
Dr Soma Pujari, Kusuma Trust's Executive Trustee.

Being there for our community in Gibraltar during the pandemic

When Covid-19 reached Gibraltar, we responded with grants to support the community's health, wellbeing and education. This included working with the Gibraltar Health Authority and the Department of Education, to:

- Buy additional medical equipment and PPE for those working on the frontline
- Fund one year's subscription to GCSEPod, an online home learning resource for 15 and 16 year olds
- Help students continue to develop the skills they need and transition more smoothly into their next year of education.

Our work in Gibraltar

Rewarding excellence in Gibraltar

Our yearly Excellence Prize celebrates Gibraltar's most inspiring students. The one-off £3,000 grant is an incentive for high achieving students to study their chosen subject at top universities.

In 2020, we awarded eight Excellence Prizes for students to take up the following university places:

- MSc Theoretical Physics at University College London
- BA History at the University of Oxford
- BEng Civil Engineering at the University of Bath
- BA English at the University of Cambridge
- BMBS Medicine at the University of Plymouth

- BSc Mathematics at the University of Lancaster
- BSc Physics at the University of Durham
- Doctorate in Educational and Child Psychology at UCL.

Supporting professional development

Every year, we celebrate the strong community spirit in Gibraltar by awarding grants for professional development that will benefit the people who live and work in the community.

Andrea Ferrer, one of six successful applicants who received a Professional Development Award in 2020 to fund her studies, speaks here about her studies and hopes.

"I'm working towards a postgraduate diploma in Counselling at the University of Lincoln. I'm about to embark on a placement as a trainee counsellor working with children and adults to gain experience and learn the fundamentals of counselling. My aim is to head back to Gibraltar once I'm a qualified counsellor. My hopes are to be employed within a school or medical setting helping and supporting individuals with mental health issues. Alongside this, I hope to do some charity work offering my assistance as a counsellor or volunteering."

Andrea Ferrer



The other five successful applicants chose the following courses:

- MSc Advanced Clinical Practice in Physiotherapy
- Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction teacher training course
- Sensory Integration Practitioner training
- CPCAB Level 3 Counselling
- Interpersonal Mediation Practitioners Certificate.

We also funded Group Professional Development grants in:

- Mental Health First Aid Instructor – Adult & Youth
- Interpersonal Mediation Practitioners Certificate.

Our work in Gibraltar

Our active grants in Gibraltar in 2020

Excellence Awards, for eight students taking up places at universities

Gibraltar Health Authority, to buy a pre-term baby simulator to train healthcare staff

Gibraltar Botanic Gardens, to develop a purpose-built education area

Gibraltar Philharmonic Society, to support a live classical concert in Gibraltar

Office of the Commissioner for Sustainable Development, to fund the first-ever Gibraltar Sustainability Awards

Optimising Futures, to fund our annual Kusuma university interview workshops

Optimising Futures & Entrepreneurs in Action, to fund our annual Kusuma University Talks

Cancer Relief Gibraltar, supporting people living with cancer in the community

Professional Development Awards, to fund individual and group professional development.

Covid-19 grants

Childline Gibraltar, to fund their free helpline service for young people

Department of Education, for one year's subscription to GCSEPod, an online home learning resource for 15 and 16 year olds

Gibraltar Care Agency, so older members of the community could receive a hot meal from the meals on wheels service

Gibraltar Health Authority, to support the Gibraltar Health Authority's fight against Covid-19.



Our work in India



This year, we've continued to focus on supporting the Transform Schools initiative at People for Action, which improves the education of

millions of children across India. During 2020, our grant has helped Transform Schools move much of their support online during the pandemic.

This page and opposite:
Transform Schools



Transform Schools is building its profile in the education sector. The team has been sharing knowledge and speaking at key online and in-person events.

Improving teaching, learning and school management

The Transform Schools initiative is working within the Indian government's school system to make sure children can reach a level of learning that is appropriate to the class they're in. They're strengthening school governance, helping teachers develop

professionally, and supporting State education departments to make improvements to the education system.

In 2020, due to Covid-19, Transform Schools had to adapt programmes and develop new materials for students, teachers

and head teachers, blending online and offline learning. Teacher and head teacher professional development programmes continued to run in partnership with State governments. Transform Schools also partnered with a range of education and technology organisations to test, improve and scale up online training, courses, student testing and using open-source platforms to deliver these elements.

Over the past year, Transform Schools has also been building its skills and capacity around predictive analysis, artificial intelligence and machine learning. This is helping to target their interventions towards those who need

them most and provide state of the art programming for students, teachers and the education system.

- The blended version of the Transform Learning programme is underway with 4.9 million children across the States of Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Odisha. That's up from 2.4 million children in 2019.
- 131,900 teachers are involved in Transform Learning.
- 125,392 teachers are using their teacher professional development training to improve their targeted instruction, competency-based teaching and leadership.



“Education of students has been badly affected by this pandemic. Physically reaching the students is not possible. The initiative to convert the Utkarsh programme into online is really a positive step. People For Action has oriented us to design and develop content-based videos and uploading it in education portals which will help the students to address their learning loss.”

Kadambini Nayak, State Resource Group member (English), Odisha

Our work in India

Getting students prepared for secondary school: Evidencing what works



When students fall behind in school it can be difficult to catch up. Transform Schools designed the Utkarsh programme to help students who were behind in class 9 to progress so they're ready for secondary school.

An evaluation of the scale-up of the programme was completed in 2020 by the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL). Following a pilot study in 2018, J-PAL conducted a full randomised control trial involving 300 secondary schools in the State of Odisha. The main aim was to evaluate the impact of

the programme on student learning.

Here are some of J-PAL's key findings:

- The Utkarsh programme led to improved student learning for all subjects – Maths, English, Odia, and Science. There was an impressive increase in the overall scores of about 40% in Odia, 60% in English, 70% in Science and 200% in Mathematics, compared with the control group.
- There were learning gains beyond the official curriculum. For example,

Utkarsh students performed better in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).

- The Utkarsh programme led to higher quality teaching and more engaged students. It particularly encouraged participation – students were more likely to independently express an idea in classrooms implementing the programme.

The Transform Schools' model that Utkarsh uses offers a promising opportunity to tackle the learning crisis faced by many States in India.



Supporting our community in India during the pandemic

In India, we gave a grant to **iPartner India** to distribute food packages and other essential items across 10 cities. With our support, more than 500 people received regular meals and 1,450 frontline health workers got the PPE they needed.

Our work in India

Our active grants in India in 2020

J-PAL South Asia at IFMR, for the evaluation of the Utkarsh (now called Transform Learning Improvement Programme)

IIT Delhi, to establish the Kusuma School of Biological Sciences

People for Action, for the Transform Schools teaching, learning and school management programme

SPARSH, for the expansion of a hospice and palliative care facility in Hyderabad.

Covid-19 grants

iPartner India, to go towards an emergency food fund for people displaced by the pandemic.

Grants awarded by Kusuma Trust UK

1 January 2020 - 31 December 2020

UK GRANTS

Ace of Clubs	£10,000	iPartner India	£20,000	Team Up	£13,469
Age UK Kensington and Chelsea	£10,000	Jamie's Farm	£18,500	Thames Explorer Trust	£9,200
Ambitious about Autism	£20,000	J-PAL South Asia	£105,967	The Akshaya Patra Foundation	£10,000
Barts Charity	£25,000	London Children's Ballet	£10,000	The Beauchamp Lodge Settlement	£8,395
Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan	£10,000	London Friend	£10,000	The Brilliant Club	£21,000
Bow Food Bank	£10,000	LNWH Charitable Fund	£10,000	The Education Endowment Foundation	£14,250
Centre for London	£7,500	Museum of Brands	£10,000	The Matt Hampson Foundation	£10,000
Chefs in Schools	£20,000	National Autistic Society	£13,170	The Orchard Project (Cause) Ltd	£14,050
CW+	£150,000	North London Cares	£10,000	The Reading Agency	£10,000
City Harvest	£35,000	North London Hospice	£25,095	The Stevens Group	£50,000
Founders4Schools	£18,602	Paddington Development Trust	£6,000	The Winchester Project	£15,000
Give a Book	£5,000	Papyrus - Prevention of		The Zoological Society of London	£100,000
Giving World	£5,000	Young Suicide	£10,000	Thrive	£10,000
Global Action Plan	£30,000	Play for Progress	£2,500	UNICEF UK	£10,000
Greenwich and Bexley		Refugee Café	£10,000	Universify Education	£9,962
Community Hospice	£25,000	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew	£15,750	University of Cambridge	£260,000
Hammersmith Community		Royal Brompton & Harefield		Venture Community Association	£24,552
Gardens Association	£7,760	Hospitals Charity	£200,000	Wetherby School	£22,153
Harrow Club W10	£23,112	Royal Trinity Hospice	£25,000	Yes Futures	£17,000
In2scienceUK	£10,000	St John Ambulance	£25,000		
		St Paul's School	£25,000		
		Sutton Trust	£36,022		
				TOTAL	£1,639,009

GIBRALTAR GRANTS

Kusuma Trust Gibraltar	£495,168
TOTAL	£495,168

INDIA GRANTS

People for Action	£217,382
TOTAL	£217,382
TOTAL	£2,351,560



Grants awarded by Kusuma Trust Gibraltar

1 January 2020 - 31 December 2020

GRANTS TO INSTITUTIONS AND PROJECTS

Alameda Biodome	£180,000
Childline Gibraltar	£16,853
Department of Education	£10,707
Gibraltar Health Authority - Covid-19	£10,000
Gibraltar Health Authority Neonatal Department	£60,100
Gibraltar Philharmonic Society	£10,000
Gibraltar Sustainability Awards	£12,000
Meals on Wheels	£9,233
Netball Europe	£200
Peter John Isola Foundation	£20,000

TOTAL	£329,093
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GRANTS TO INDIVIDUALS

Professional development	£20,280
University and excellence scholarships	£30,000
University Talks for Students	£8,758

TOTAL	£59,038
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TOTAL	£388,131
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Trustees

Dr Soma Pujari,
Co-Founder and Executive Trustee (KT-UK and KT-Gib)
Anurag Dikshit,
Co-Founder and Chair (KT-UK and KT-Gib)
Nitin Jain (KT-UK)
Peter Isola (KT-Gib)

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