



Creating opportunities and empowering women with Karuna Trust.



Transforming rural education with Baraka Community Partnerships.

Newsletter of the Halcrow Foundation Friends

Spring/Summer 2023–Issue 03

INTOUCH



Join our community

We're building a network of Halcrow Foundation Friends. So if you want to learn more about our work; have a project we may be interested in supporting or would like to make a donation, we'd love to hear from you.

Everything you need to know is on our website. Join our social media channels for regular updates and get involved!

www.halcrowfoundation.org

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 Halcrow Foundation

Building stronger communities



Working in partnership with other charities, the Halcrow Foundation funds grassroots projects that make a tangible and lasting improvement to the lives of people in the UK and regions of Africa and Asia.

Find out how inside these pages. >>>

What's in this edition



Building fish farms in Zambia with Zambia Orphans Aid.



Training women in farming techniques with Equality in Tourism.



Opening up education with Baraka Community Partnerships.



Our team

All our trustees are former employees of Halcrow, and we are honoured to volunteer our skills and time to the Halcrow Foundation. We're delighted to be supported by Lucy and Clare, who help us with our administration and communications channels.

(From left to right, top to bottom)

- Clare Dorey, Communications
- Malcolm Wallace, Trustee
- Lucy Mason, Communications
- James Billinghamurst, Trustee
- Andrew Yeoward, Trustee
- David Kerr, Chair and Trustee
- Anna Mann, Trustee

Email us:

firstname.surname@halcrowfoundation.org

Welcome!

From the Halcrow Foundation trustees

The last year has been a challenging time for many, with the war in Ukraine and rising food and energy prices affecting people around the world. The impact on global stock markets has also affected our fund, and so we have taken a cautious approach to working with new delivery partners while reviewing our funding strategy. However we continued to support projects with existing partners and increased our spending by 60 per cent in 2022. These are grassroots projects that sustainably improve life for communities in the UK, Africa and Asia, and we hope you enjoy reading about them in this newsletter. You can also meet our long-standing financial director, Jim Billinghamurst, and discover his journey to becoming a trustee.

It's also been a busy time in terms of governance. We have been reviewing our investment policy to make sure it adheres to environmental, social and governance (ESG) guidelines.

This will ensure our investment strategy matches our aims and purpose as a charity. We have also joined the Association of Charitable Foundations, which allows us to network with other charities, keep up to date with current policies and news, and opens the door to future funding partnerships.

“ Since establishing the foundation after the Boxing Day tsunami in 2004, we have supported 147 projects with an overall funding of more than £2.5 million. ”

The Halcrow Foundation continues to maintain the legacy of the engineering company Halcrow, and we achieve this by funding projects that make a tangible and lasting improvement to the lives of people suffering poverty and hardship. Our work focuses on:

- Improving access to education, healthcare and safe water

- Increasing household food, health and income security by supporting livelihood development

Since establishing the foundation after the Boxing Day tsunami in 2004, we have supported 147 projects with an overall funding of more than £2.5 million. This has benefitted an estimated 191,000 people, with a further 530,000 family and community members benefitting indirectly. Our aim is to continue building partnerships with like-minded people and organisations that share our values and bring lasting direct benefits to at least 4,000 people each year.

Learn more about Halcrow Foundation by visiting our website. You can also follow our social media channels for regular updates and to get involved.

www.halcrowfoundation.org

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Helping to rebuild a health centre with Build It International.



Empowering women to build their own futures with Karuna Trust.



Supporting people out of homelessness with Groundswell.

Africa

Zambia Orphans Aid



Local people are employed to dig out the ground.

Fishing in Zambia

Halcrow Foundation has supported a project by Zambia Orphans Aid to build a fish farm at a community school in Mazabuka District in Zambia. This involved building and stocking a fishpond to feed the 636 orphans and vulnerable children attending the school. In Zambia many children live in households run by grandparents or children and get by on less than £1.50 a day. Education is a pathway out of poverty for many, and it's hoped the protein-rich food will improve attendance as well as academic performance.

A 20 by 30-metre pond was dug by local people, creating employment, and lined with plastic sheeting. It was then filled with water from boreholes. A wire fence was built around the perimeter for safety, and a disinfection facility installed by the gate. The aim of the project is also to sell excess fish stock to the local community, with the profit paying for running costs and more fish.



The fish will feed hundreds of school children.

“Education is a pathway out of poverty for many, and it's hoped the protein-rich food will improve attendance as well as academic performance.”

Helping women farmers

We've helped women farmers in Tanzania boost their financial security by accessing the lucrative Kilimanjaro tourism industry. Traditionally, the fruit and vegetable supply chain means farmers must compete in local markets to sell their produce to dealers at very low prices. These are then sold on to hotels that support the Mount Kilimanjaro climbing and safari markets.

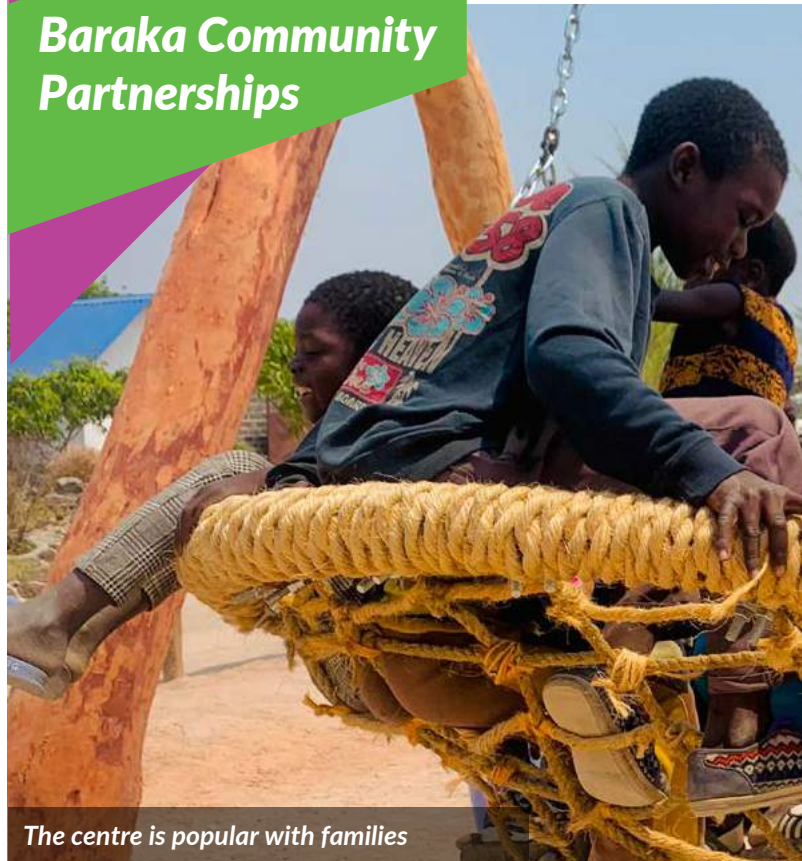
The UK-based charity Equality in Tourism has been training 120 women in new farming techniques as well as business, legal and land rights. These women have created the WAMBOMA Co-operative: Women Farming for their Future, which gives them more opportunities to establish and run successful farm businesses and helps them benefit from group savings and loan schemes. It also gives the women a stronger collective voice in the food markets. Halcrow Foundation has been working in a funding partnership with the Eva Reckitt Trust to pay for training and running costs, as well as equipment for storing and transporting produce.



The women now have a stronger voice.



Baraka Community Partnerships



The centre is popular with families



Opening up education



Our funding also supported a popular community learning centre in rural Zambia, helping it achieve nearly 20,000 visits last year. Baraka Community Partnerships built the centre in Kapiri Mposhi District in 2018 with help from Halcrow Foundation, and we've supported projects to expand and improve it since then. The latest project adds learning areas, extends the playground and builds an outdoor kitchen. This means the centre can extend its wide range of free classes and workshops which include IT and adult literacy. The new outdoor library area also serves as a stage for a dance club which recently attracted 500 people to its talent show. A cooking club is held in the outdoor kitchen where adults can learn kitchen hygiene, recipes and environmentally friendly cooking methods.

Our funding also adds a basket swing, sandpit and fencing to the playground, which is used for sports and exercise classes. This brings more families to the centre where they are more likely to try the wide range of lessons and activities on offer.

What the children say

Agness

I feel happy every time I am swinging because it feels as though someone is lifting me up. My mood changes when everyone else is laughing.

Justine

I enjoy the slide because I feel great when I move from the top to down in seconds. It's fun!

Calum

The playground area is an interesting place because everyone is happy. They give turns to give chances to others.

Improving healthcare

The Libuyu Health Centre in Livingstone, Zambia, was in a run-down state and deteriorating fast, with cramped facilities that offered little privacy for patients. Following the success of past projects we have worked on with Build It International, including new school sanitation facilities and hand washing stations, we agreed to help the UK-based charity rebuild the centre.

The facility is well used and already benefits 30,000 people from the Libuyu community and surrounding areas with a maternity unit and

outpatient care. So clinic staff had to ensure the delivery of vital healthcare services continued during the large-scale project. Halcrow Foundation paid for removing the old roof and replacing it with a safe, watertight new one. This had to be done in sections during the dry seasons and included new trusses and sheeting as well as ceiling boards across the entire building. The health centre now features new consultancy rooms, laboratories, pharmacy space, separate wards for men, women and children, and sanitation facilities including upgraded toilets and showers.



The new safe, watertight roof.



Clinic staff worked through the build.



The centre benefits 30,000 people.



Empowering women in India



The women gain confidence and skills.

We are delighted to see a completed women's empowerment project we have funded since 2017 in Madhya Pradesh, India. At least 600 women and their families have benefitted from the project, which was run by our delivery partner Karuna Trust and NGO Jan Sahas. The women used to work as manual scavengers, but have been retrained as skilled garment-makers with the knowledge and confidence to build their own businesses.

Manual scavenging is a demeaning and poorly-paid job that involves cleaning latrines and carrying the excrement to disposal centres. As well as huge risks to the women's health, it carries the stigma of untouchability. This is when someone who is considered to be low caste faces social exclusion and limited access to basic services such as education and employment. Not only do these women face discrimination, their children do too.

Most women now work in collective sewing centres or on machines at home. Despite challenges such as Covid-19 lockdowns and rising government taxes, their businesses have flourished and they've earned a reputation for reliability and quality. Many also train other women, and 15 have put themselves forward as candidates in local elections.

Halcrow Foundation trustee Malcolm Wallace said, "This project is a truly great example of how the Foundation works with its partners, and brings about lasting benefits to the most disadvantaged in this world. For me personally, it has been a matter of great pride and satisfaction to have been involved from start to finish of this excellent project."

In November, the enterprise was formally handed over to a committee of 11 women with some ongoing support from NGO Jan Sahas. Several women explained how the project has not only created financial security but also, most importantly, given them a sense of dignity and acceptance within their communities. "I am getting respect in the family as well in society," said Chaman. "We also liked the training very much, it has helped me in boosting my confidence. I would like to create more self help groups and teach them sewing skills and business."

“ *I have seen a lot in life, I had many problems. I used to think that I should do something but never achieved much because I am not literate. After starting tailoring work, I am able to take care of the household expenses. I feel very good when a woman learns sewing from me. Now I maintain the records of the [sewing] centre and also run the centre. I want to learn more and go further.” Firoza, tailor and sewing centre manager.*



Working in collective sewing centres.

Karuna Trust



The women are learning better farm management skills.



Communities are vulnerable to natural disasters.

Supporting flood-prone communities

We are also supporting a pilot project run by Karuna Trust that helps communities in eastern India who are vulnerable to natural disasters like flooding. This is a one-year project that supports local NGO Pragya develop a community response to disaster, and helps it attract future funding. Currently the project helps 900 people who live in flood-prone areas, including 310 women. However if the pilot is successful, then it has the potential to be expanded to benefit more than 500,000 people in the future. The project involves training young people to develop early warning and evacuation systems; helping village councils identify how they can improve infrastructure; training local builders to use appropriate design methods and materials for future construction projects; encouraging communities to increase flood defences such as embankments, and providing volunteer equipment like jackets, gloves, ropes and boats.

Empowering women-led organisations

Low levels of rainfall have challenged a project we have been funding in West Bengal which supports 2,500 vulnerable families. The project is run by our delivery partner Transform Trade and supported by NGO PRASARI, and gives 125 women-led organisations training and support to improve their farm management skills. This increases their income, encourages climate-resilient farming practices and improves access to government support.

The families benefiting from our funding live in Birbhum, one of the poorest districts in India. Most of the population belongs to marginalised social groups and are dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods. Seasonal unemployment forces male family members to migrate to urban areas for work, which means the women must take on farming duties alongside their household chores.

Our funds help cover training costs and activities to improve farming practices. This includes increasing the efficient use of water, crop planning and engaging the whole community, and is all driven by grassroots, women-led organisations.

Transform Trade

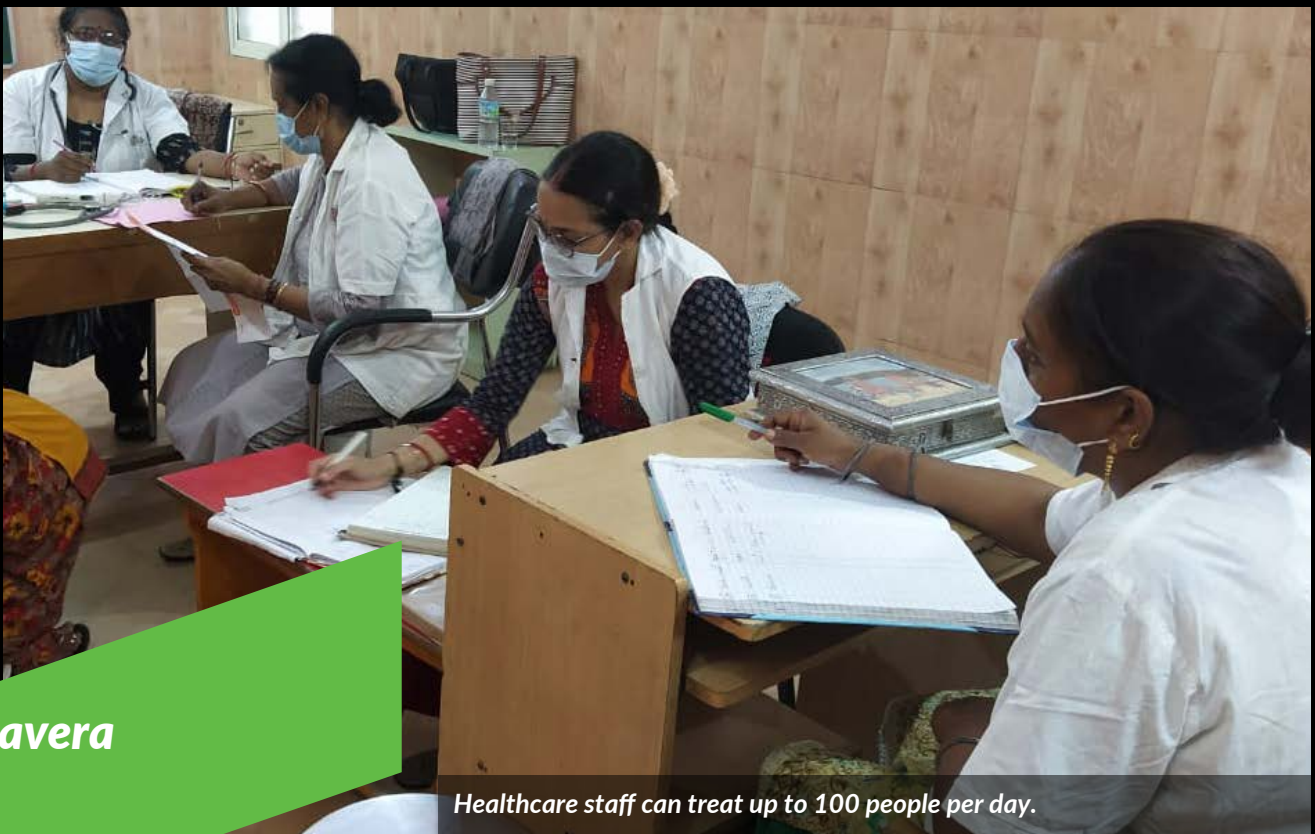
Supporting healthcare in vulnerable communities

Savera Medical centre in Delhi, India, looks after up to 95,000 people who live in slum dwellings in the south of the city. These are homes to migrant labourers from other states including Bihar, West Bengal and Bangladesh, and their main occupations are street sellers, rickshaw drivers and scrap dealers. Most are among the poorest people in the world and live on less than US\$1 per day. Halcrow Foundation has worked with Savera for many years, funding doctors' salaries in the health centre so that it can provide general as well as specialised healthcare such as eye and gynaecology clinics and monitor the health of school children.

During the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown, the centre fell into disrepair. So when Savera asked us for funding to make the building fit for purpose again, we agreed to help. The centre is now up and running, and healthcare staff are able to treat up to 100 people per day.



School children visit the health centre.



Savera

Healthcare staff can treat up to 100 people per day.

Supporting people out of homelessness

We are continuing our funding of Groundswell's Peer Progression programme which supports staff and volunteers to deliver health services to people in the UK without a home.

Groundswell gives people with experience of homelessness the opportunity to contribute to society. Our funding supports a three-year strategy that focuses on progression, good health and creating change. The aim of this project is to give people with experience of homelessness the confidence, skills and knowledge to identify their goals, and understand and overcome the barriers that stop them achieving them.

Halcrow Foundation funding pays for the progression manager's salary as well as project costs to support 100 people over three years. Many Groundswell volunteers move on to jobs including nurses, carers, interpreters or support workers. Groundswell says, "People come to Groundswell at a variety of stages on their journey out of homelessness. Too often systemic problems (online forms for benefit applications, rogue landlords) are preventing people from progressing – that's why the Progression Programme is essential."

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The three-year project supports 100 people.



Helping people identify their goals.

Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Service



Helping people survive domestic abuse

Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Service helps people who are experiencing domestic abuse. We continued our funding of the charity for a second year, paying for the salary and training costs of a Triage Officer to answer the helpline. As a first point of contact, the Triage Officer takes calls from the public, completes risk assessments and decides if and how cases need to be referred on for further support. Depending on the outcome of these referrals, women can come into the Swindon Domestic Abuse refuge with their children or be supported in the community. Male victims of domestic abuse are also supported in the community and, if needed, helped to access male-only refuge accommodation.

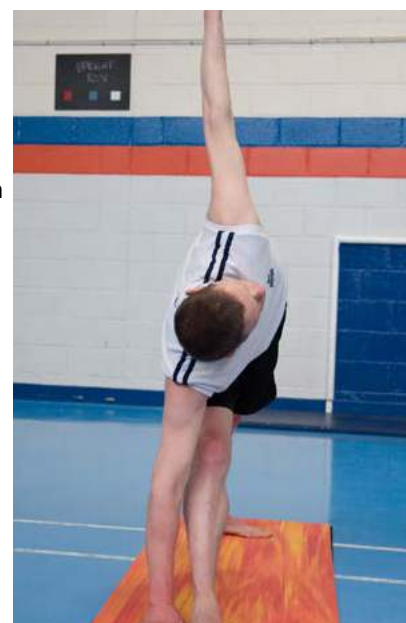
This position of Triage Officer is currently vacant after the person who was originally recruited left the charity. So our funding is currently being spent on staff overtime to maintain the role until a new officer starts.

Prison Phoenix Trust

Prison Phoenix Trust supports prisoners in the UK and Republic of Ireland by teaching yoga and meditation through workshops, correspondence, books and newsletters. Our funding focuses on the support of young offenders aged between 18 and 24 who are held in five young offender institutions, often within adult prisons. Where practical, inmates are given opportunities to practice yoga and meditation with a qualified teacher that has been trained by Prison Phoenix Trust to support their specific needs. These may include addressing

past trauma, neurodiversity - including attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) – and the negative experiences many young offenders have of education in general.

By regularly attending classes and practising yoga, inmates can learn to relax and focus on reducing anxiety and stress while living in a restricted, crowded environment. This not only improves their mental health, it helps them deal better with life outside the prison walls.



Helping young inmates focus on reducing anxiety.

EDA-E Ethiopia

We have funded the building of a community spring in Entoto and Tullu Nacha villages near Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. The project is run by NGO Environmentalists Development Association-Ethiopia (EDA-E), with the help of local people. The civil war in Ethiopia has delayed completion of the project, however the political situation is now improving and the spring will soon be operational. Clean water benefits the villagers in many ways, including better health and hygiene and increased income.



Tiyeni

Farming communities in Emsizini, Northern Malawi, have benefitted from Halcrow Foundation support as we continue to fund sustainable farming programmes. UK-based charity Tiyeni trains smallholder farmers in the deep bed farming method which increases crop yields by 50 per cent, reduces food instability and protects livelihoods against the effects of climate change. Our funding covers equipment, agriculture and livestock training and support, and encouraging the participation of women farmers.



The programme trains smallholder farmers.

SEED

Social Economical and Environmental Developer (SEED) helps marginalised communities and their children in the Vavuniya District in Sri Lanka. We've continued funding the education and development of up to 250 children who have a range of special needs, and assist the Sri Lankan government to develop and expand special needs education in schools. Despite the country facing huge challenges due to the current financial crisis, the project continues to provide vital support to vulnerable children.



SPEAR

We funded a project with London-based charity SPEAR that supports people who are homeless or at risk of being homeless, and helps them develop the skills they need to live more independent lives. Thanks to Halcrow Foundation funds, 50 people took part in a programme that teaches life training skills such as cooking, budgeting and understanding the digital world. As well as building confidence, this helps them access adult education and job opportunities in the future.



Developing life skills.



The Halcrow Foundation our journey

Trustee James (Jim) Billingham talks about his career which spanned clock and watch repairs, computer programming and accountancy before becoming finance director of the Halcrow Foundation. Like all our trustees, Jim is an ex-Halcrow employee and worked for the company for 23 years. Now retired, he lives in Wiltshire and enjoys travelling with his wife, Denise. As well as supporting the foundation, Jim also finds time to look after accounts for his local village hall and his son's alpaca trekking farm in Cornwall.

“From an early age I was interested in engineering, and I am a reasonably practical person, but from day one I ended up doing office work,” says Jim. However, he doesn't go for the easy option, qualifying as an accountant while working full time and later taking an Open University degree in mathematics, electronics and computing. Jim has also put his practical skills to good use outside of work, designing and building his own house which he still lives in nearly 40 years later. “I like a challenge,” he admits. “If there's something new or an existing situation that needs sorting out then I'm very happy to see why it isn't working and try to improve it.”

This mindset has helped Jim throughout his career, which included working as an accountant at Rolls Royce in Bristol where he watched Concorde test flights from the staff car park. “A tremendous


sight,” he says. “I still remember it now.” Jim also worked for a company involved in offshore survey work and spent time in China. In 1991 he moved to Halcrow as a finance manager and worked his way up to be a business group finance director. “It was a great company to work for,” he says. “Lovely, friendly people with a good work ethic, and we worked on interesting projects all over the world.”

Jim led the finance team that implemented new accounting software (Agresso) when change was needed due to Y2K, known as the Millennium Bug. His department was also involved in managing funds that employees raised to support victims of the Boxing Day Tsunami in 2004, which sowed the seeds of the Halcrow Foundation. In 2012 Jim joined the foundation as finance director. “What I bring to the table is keeping everything in order,”

he says. “I let people know where we are and make sure we pay as we go along.” Jim says his reward is “knowing you have helped people who were struggling. Without the foundation there may not be other sources of help available to them.” He sees the foundation as the legacy of Halcrow. “It has a unique model,” he says. “From the first days of the foundation funds go direct to the individual projects, rather than through third parties and that makes the difference. We know the money has gone to the people it's supposed to.”

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