



**HUMAN
DIGNITY
FOUNDATION**

Annual Report 2018

CHILDREN CAN'T WAIT.

CONTENTS

→	Sharpening our focus	1
→	Twin threats to children's rights	3
→	The HDF approach	5
→	Accountability	7
→	Audit	9
→	Summary of expenditure	11
→	Disbursements	13

SHARPENING OUR FOCUS

An introduction from Seán Coughlan



Children can't wait. That's the very simple, powerful mantra that defines Human Dignity Foundation. Since joining as Executive Director in 2018, I have felt this sense of urgency in all the work that HDF delivers. My role, and that of the HDF team, has been to start to think critically about how we can be most effective as a foundation for the remainder of our limited life. This process of introspection has been a consistent feature of HDF's journey since 2004. In the last year we have continued this evolution with a strategic review and portfolio-wide audit. As a result, we are sharpening our focus – both in terms of the aspects of violence against children that we are tackling and the ways in which we think we can provide most valuable support to the sector. Our sharpened focus will see our time and resources trained on two of the gravest threats to children's rights



– child sexual abuse and harmful practices. We will provide support to a network of community, national and international organisations through a combination of programme funding, capacity building and thoughtful leadership and advice. HDF's vision is a world in which violence against children is ended. We are looking forward to playing our role to the fullest in this final phase of funding and support.



TWIN THREATS TO CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Child Sexual Abuse and Harmful Practices

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted in 1989. As we approach its 30th anniversary, the severity of the issues we still face in the fight to end violence against children bring the critical importance of the convention into stark relief. Children's rights are non-negotiable and inalienable, and their protection and promotion has always been at the core of all HDF funding. In tackling child sexual abuse and harmful practices in our sunset phase, we are prioritising two of the gravest threats to these rights.

Child sexual abuse is pervasive

and common to all societies and it is a form of violence that is evolving as quickly as society itself. Rapid advances in communication technology and internet connectivity have contributed to an unprecedented growth in online child sexual exploitation and abuse. It is now a global industry, exploiting and abusing children for profit. The scale is truly shocking. Microsoft estimate that approximately 270,000 images of child sexual abuse are uploaded every single day.

To compound the issue, the relative anonymity of many internet platforms

and the continuing growth of the dark web has created an opaque network of producers and consumers of abuse material. This network is borderless and fluid in its structure, but it does display a number of characteristics. Over 65% of child sexual abuse imagery is hosted in Europe and, whilst child abuse is an international phenomenon, the production of certain types of material – such as live streaming – is concentrated in Southeast Asia.

Online child sexual exploitation and abuse is the most widespread, coordinated and commercialised threat to children's rights today. The success of our collective response to this threat will rest on our willingness to cooperate and create borderless solutions that have the speed and agility to face down a truly global network of abuse. HDF is placing particular focus on supporting organisations that identify and rescue victims and disrupt the supply of online child abuse material.

Practices harmful to children are a fundamental contravention of their rights – whether the right to health, the right to education, or the right to be protected from physical or psychological harm, mistreatment and exploitation. However, the reality is that harmful practices are widespread and persistent. They tend to be integrated into social norms and cultural practice. That these harmful practices are deemed 'cultural' makes the path to their eradication sensitive and nuanced. As such, solutions need to be informed by local knowledge, locally-led and founded in children's rights above all else.

For over a decade we have prioritised two harmful practices that have a hugely detrimental impact on children in the societies in which they are prevalent – female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage. HDF has supported a number of organisations that work in partnership with local communities to end these practices within a generation.

THE **HDF** APPROACH

Our modus operandi
for the sunset phase

HDF believes that protecting and promoting children's rights is the first step in enabling them to live safe, fulfilling and dignified lives. The question of 'how' is of utmost importance to us. We have defined three primary ways in which we will support the fight to end child sexual abuse and harmful practices. These approaches are complementary and represent the legacy we want to leave as a limited life foundation. This framework is HDF's modus operandi for the sunset phase.

At the heart of our support to organisations working to end violence against children is **programmatic funding**. This type of support has always constituted the bulk of HDF's investments. In this final funding window, we are prioritising organisations that work directly with children affected by child sexual abuse and harmful practices. We also want to build on our previous grant investments and HDF's geographical focus will reflect our historical footprint in Africa and Asia.

By their very nature, limited life foundations have to plan how to exit productively from individual grants. Our **capacity building** approach provides partners with bespoke funding support to enhance their ability to continue to operate effectively. Capacity building is an oft used term in the fields of international development and philanthropy. When deployed smartly, it is an incredibly effective way of encouraging independence and raising standards across the sector.

We want to leave the Violence Against Children sector a better place than we found it. In practice this means **strengthening the sector** through initiatives that have the potential to transform how we protect children's rights and by ensuring that the most valuable lessons of our funding journey inform colleagues. Three years on from the Sustainable Development Goals, the sector needs to build the momentum that makes ending violence against children a global priority.

“ Our vision is a world in which violence against children is ended.

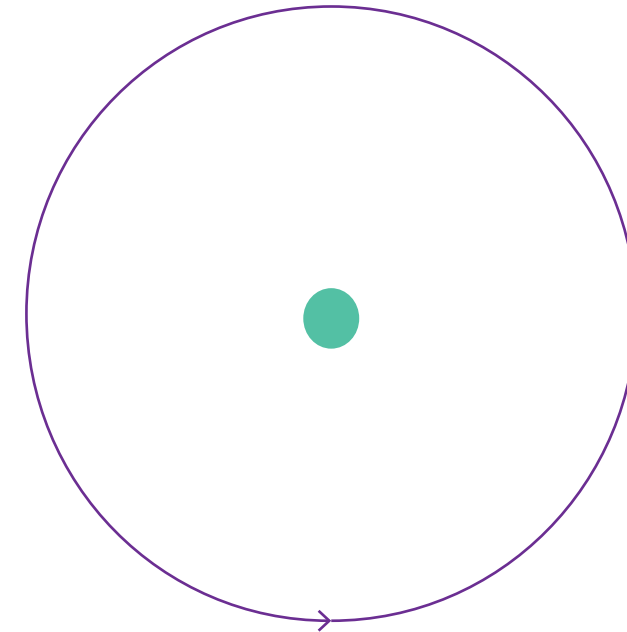
HDF provides programmatic funding, capacity building and sector support to enable children to live safe, fulfilling and dignified lives. ”



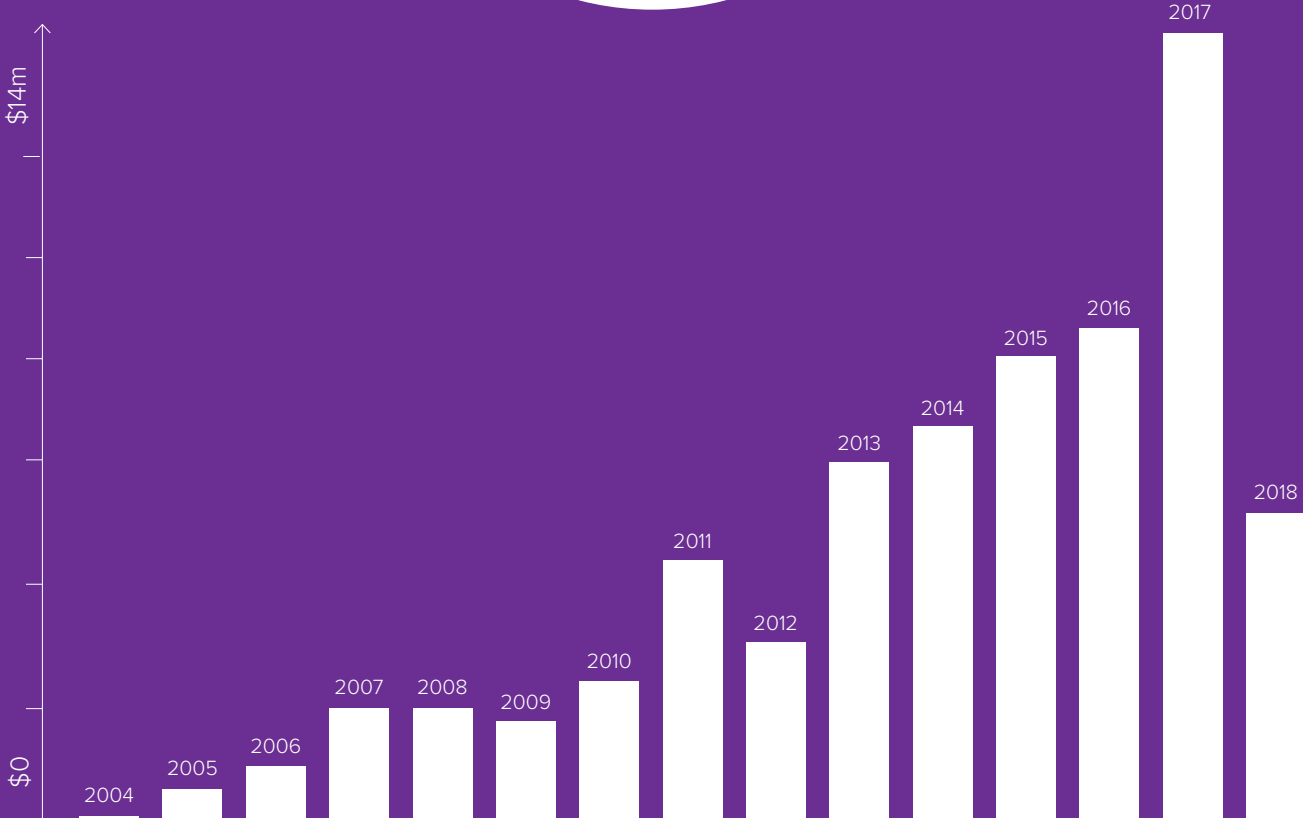
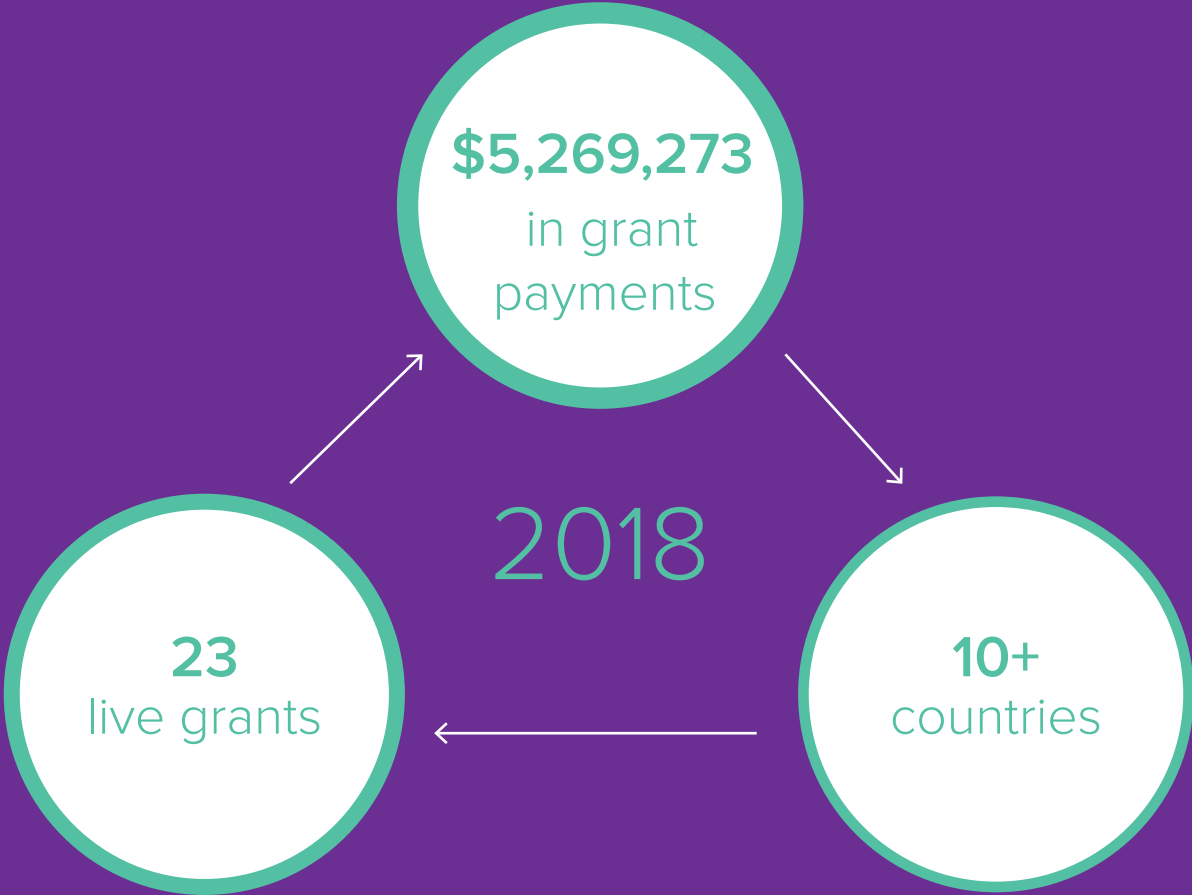
AUDIT

HDF's audit and investment committee is charged with ensuring the effective and prudent management of foundation assets. Audits of existing programme investments are a critical part of this oversight function; and particularly throughout a sunset phase in which our priority is to ensure that investments maximise impact. As part of HDF's strategic review, professional services firm Mazars were contracted to undertake a financial and governance audit of live grants in November 2018. The review and testing focused on the design and implementation of policies and procedures, financial controls and risk management. The audit identified both high-quality practices and areas for improvement. The 'big picture' is very encouraging – HDF's live grants have positively changed the lives of over 220,000 children – and salary scales lie within industry and national norms. Furthermore, instances of fraud are low, with 4 recorded across audits of 23 multi-year grants. Many of the lessons to be learnt from the audit

relate to the link between programme design and programme delivery and measurement. In some instances, a lack of clear targets at design stage led to insufficiently defined measurement frameworks and consequently, a monitoring process unable to effectively verify outputs and outcomes. In addition, some grants would benefit from additional capacity at senior management level and a small number of grantee accounting systems were not robust enough for optimum grant delivery. The successful completion of the audit required the active participation and cooperation of all grantees. The HDF board and team would like to extend their thanks to grantees for their support and patience throughout the process. The 2018 audit was ultimately designed to enhance the impact of HDF grants. The lessons we have learnt from the process are already being integrated into better grant-making systems within HDF and more effective grant-management processes in partnership with our network of grantees.



SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE



DISBURSEMENTS

Grantee	Country	Project	Lifetime	Total Grant \$	Disbursements 2018 \$
Aajeevika Bureau	India	Deepening Migration Practice II	2015 - 2019	2,424,254	634,593
Afrika Tikkun	South Africa	Children and Youth Empowerment II	2016 - 2019	750,098	75,250
Butterflies	India	Building Community Capacities and Participation to Prevent Violence Against Children	2014 - 2018	1,109,294	220,000
CAMFED	Malawi	Investing in Young Women's Leadership and Livelihoods to Support Reduced Early and Child Marriage in Malawi	2016 - 2020	2,225,157	708,723
Blueprint for Better Business	International	Blueprint for Better Business II	2016 - 2019	495,000	53,520
Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention	South Africa	Ensuring Access to Safe and Inclusive Schools in High Violence Communities	2014 - 2018	2,199,556	18,344
Centre for Child Protection	Italy	Delivering on the Declaration of Rome	2018 - 2020	118,126	61,266
Conference Participation	International	Conference Participation	2005 - 2021	200,000	6,000
ECPAT	International	Addressing the Sexual Exploitation of Children Through Support for the ECPAT Network	2014 - 2019	4,061,577	359,553
Elevate Children Funders Group	International	Membership	2018	7,660	7,660

Equality Now	International	A Safe and Just World: Making Equality Reality	2016 - 2019	3,500,000	199,863
Global Media Campaign	International	GMC to End FGM	2017 - 2018	1,555,648	272,466
HAQ Centre for Child Rights	India	Improving Access to Criminal and Restorative Justice for Child Sexual Abuse Survivors in Delhi	2014 - 2018	863,095	179,399
INTERPOL	International	FACE - Fight Against Child (Sexual) Exploitation	2014 - 2020	6,397,031	420,546
Insaan	International	Developing an International Standard (ISO) for the Charity Sector	2018	33,053	33,053
James House	South Africa	BEST - Building Emotionally Strong Teens	2014 - 2019	985,137	270,941
Masifunde	South Africa	Operational Support	2018	65,000	65,000
Options for International Health	International	The Girl Generation	2015 - 2019	4,649,419	852,304
Plan International	India	Strengthening Prevention, Prosecution and Protection Services for Children At Risk of, or Subjected to, Trafficking	2013 - 2018	3,426,847	338,016
Safe Hands for Girls	Gambia	Strengthening Organisational Capacity	2018	185,000	164,160
Science Gallery International	International	Inspiring the Innovators of the Future	2015 - 2017	835,099	-3,836
Social Change Initiative	International	Standards and Practice in Migration	2016 - 2017	1,143,151	8,617
Trócaire	Malawi	A Socio-Cultural Approach to the Empowerment of Women and Girls	2015 - 2019	1,554,129	323,836
				TOTAL \$	5,269,273

