

**HUMAN
DIGNITY
FOUNDATION**

**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2023

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INTRODUCTION

Human Dignity Foundation was established in 2004 as a spend-down foundation. In recent years, we have focussed on funding organisations who help protect and safeguard children from sexual exploitation and abuse.

A REDEFINED STRATEGY

In 2023, HDF updated its strategy to drive the expansion of our project portfolio and maximise the foundation's future impact – to support more children affected by or at risk of child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA). This has resulted in the extension of HDF's life to 2033, and the definition of 4 strategic pillars, under which partner organisations will be supported:

- Expose – to better understand CSEA drivers, nature and prevalence in order to foster data-driven action
- Prevent – to seek to decrease the number of children who become victim of sexual exploitation and abuse
- Respond – to support capacity to respond to current abuse, with child- and victim-centric approaches
- Protect – to seek to decrease the risk that CSEA survivors are exploited or abused again

This new strategy will guide the development of HDF's partnerships with like-minded organisations who share our values and sense of urgency to safeguard and protect children from CSEA globally: children can't wait.

Whilst HDF's core activities are driven by our strategy, a small Opportunistic Fund was established in late 2023. It aims to finance smaller scale projects, which can have a rapid impact, outside of HDF's central mission. The first award under this new fund went to Care and Learn Ireland Centres (CALI), an organisation providing unique learning opportunities and support to young adults with severe-to-profound intellectual disabilities. HDF's contribution is being used to develop and pilot this new service model and secure funding to sustainably grow and expand the structure.

EXPOSING CSEA

In 2021, HDF founded Childlight to better understand the prevalence, nature and scale of CSEA. Childlight was formally launched in March 2023 and has published its first Flagship Report – Searchlight. This report showcases the findings from 9 academic studies it has produced. It takes stock of the data available to understand the nature and prevalence of CSEA globally, as well and highlight new research on men's online behaviours, including sexual offending against children. This critical research will help inform Childlight's first global CSEA prevalence index, which will be published in 2024.

HDF also renewed its commitment to Childlight's mission by approving further funding to increase the duration, scale and scope of their work. This will enable Childlight to continue to expose the scale and nature of CSEA, and help practitioners and legislators to use this data to inform global action to safeguard and protect more children.

RESPONDING TO ABUSE AND SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

HDF has been supporting INTERPOL for almost 10 years to identify children who are sexually abused across the world, as well as identify and arrest the perpetrators of these crimes. Thanks to HDF's support, under our most recent programme, over 11,000 sexually abused children have been identified in under 4 years. INTERPOL's work continues to be critical to support national police forces with the skills and tools to investigate these crimes, resulting in more offenders being arrested and more CSEA survivors being identified and protected.

HDF believes that the global sexual abuse and exploitation of children is a hidden pandemic. It is however preventable. We will continue and scale up our support to world-leading organisations who are directly tackling this issue to protect and safeguard more children.



John Climax
Executive Chairman

AUDIT & ASSURANCE

PORTFOLIO OVERSIGHT

HDF gains assurance from a wide range of activities, including in-house and externally performed audits, independent third-party evaluations, and management oversight. All projects are subject to these assurance activities. Audits are particularly crucial, ensuring that HDF funds are safeguarded and that recipients are given regular opportunities to enhance their own assurance processes.

MANAGING RISK

On a quarterly basis, HDF reviews and forecasts risks that could threaten the achievement of strategic objectives. This process allows the organisation to identify, quantify, and ultimately reduce its exposure to risk. In late 2019, we developed an embedded risk management framework for the management of HDF's internal operational risks. This framework has been built upon and further refined throughout 2023 and has been extended to recipients of HDF funds and the work they deliver. This allows HDF to effectively manage risks at an individual project level based on their unique profile.

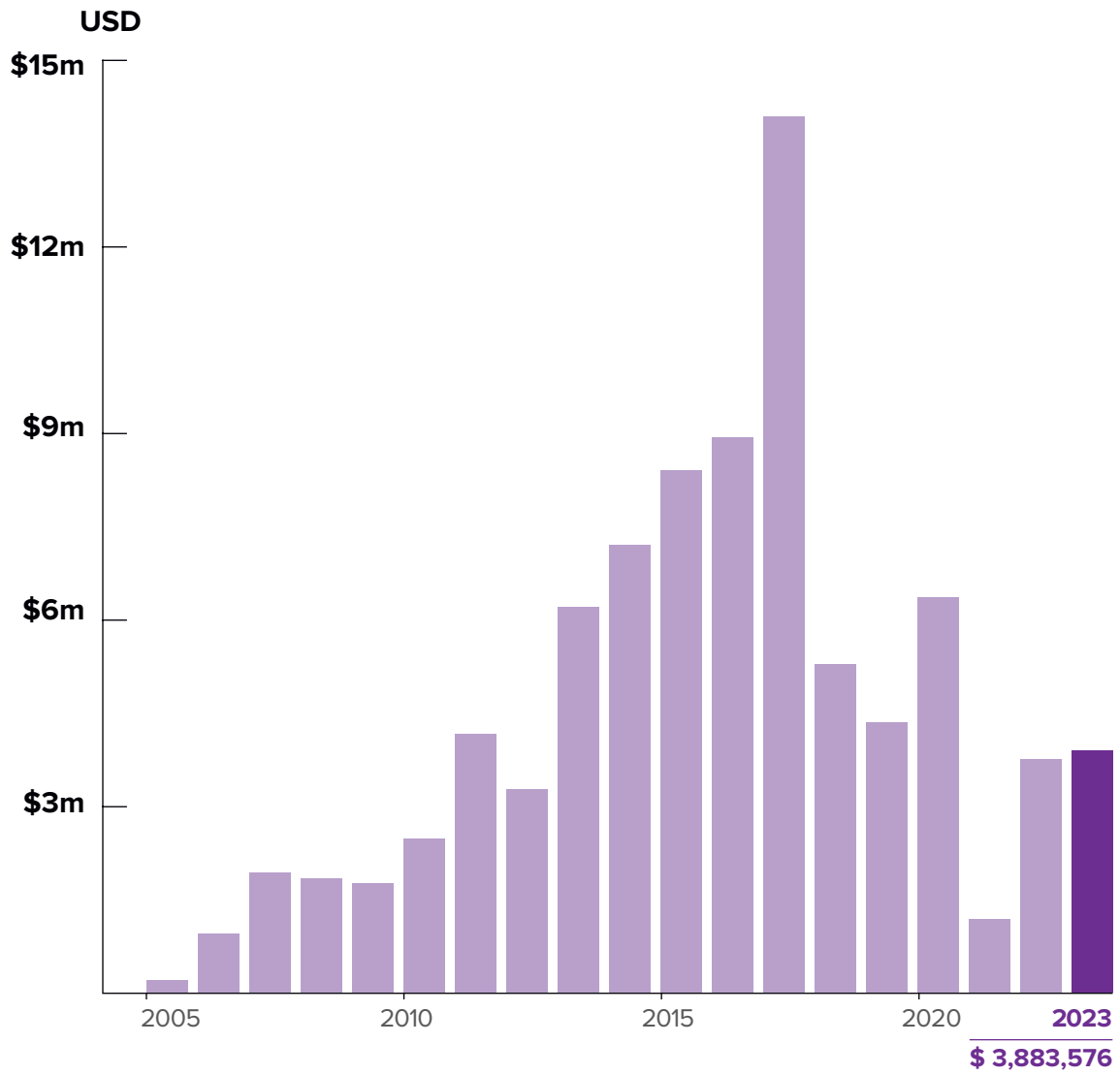
EXTERNAL AUDIT

HDF's internal processes and controls are tested annually by third party auditors. The 2023 audit report confirmed that HDF has a sound system of controls, which in turn ensures an effective control environment. All significant internal control systems were tested and verified to be effective and in compliance with all applicable Swiss regulation.

GOVERNANCE

HDF's Board and Audit and Investment Committee meet at least three times annually, providing oversight to HDF's audit function, internal controls, budgeting, expenditure, and policy framework.

AWARD HISTORY



DISBURSEMENTS 2023

Childlight (University of Edinburgh)

INTERPOL

Orchid Project

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

New Venture Fund

\$3,883,576

CHILDREN CAN'T WAIT

HDF