

Corra International Coronavirus Response Micro-grants

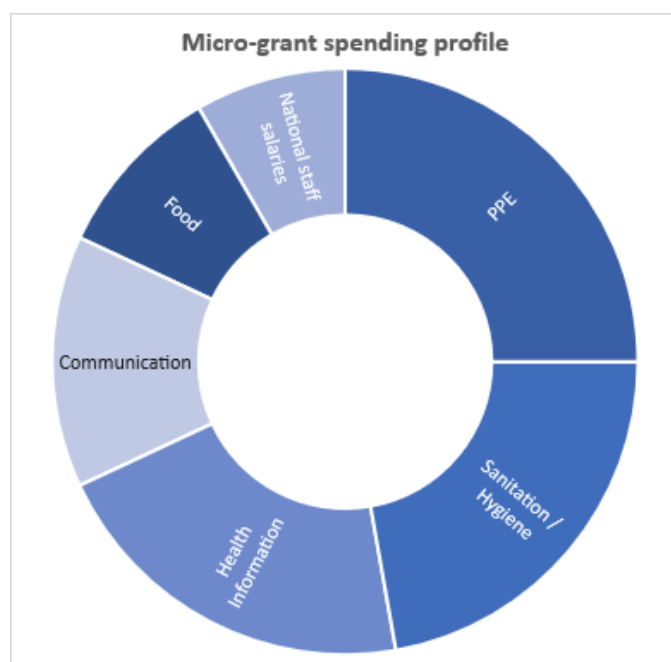
As part of Corra's response to the significant changes brought by coronavirus, our Board approved a proposal to allocate Corra funding for a series of coronavirus response micro-grants, a new initiative which responded to the extreme and unusual new circumstances organisations were faced with.

In April 2020, Corra made 29 coronavirus response micro-grants to organisations which Corra already knew were doing good work with overseas partners in the international development field. These £500 grants were to help organisations, most small Scottish charities, support their partners to respond to the many new challenges brought by the pandemic. Recognising that the best way to spend the funds would vary depending on different organisations' situations and target groups, these grants were unrestricted.

Louisa Pollock of Children's Medical Care Malawi commented that the Corra grant *"was very helpful to be able to very quickly meet the needs of our Malawian team in what was a stressful and fast-developing situation. It was particularly reassuring for the team at a time when their daily income was uncertain, to know that allowances for project work would still be paid."*

Supporting 9 Countries

- The micro-grants supported work in **nine countries**: **Malawi** (11 grants), **Zambia** (6), **Tanzania** (5), **Rwanda** (2), **Bangladesh** (1), the **Democratic Republic of Congo** (1), **Myanmar** (1), **Pakistan** (1), and the **UK** (1, supporting international volunteers).
- The micro-grants reached an estimated **49,300 people** – 9,022 directly benefitting through resources they received as individuals (e.g. a food parcel, a mask) and a further 40,277 benefitting through information or resources made available as a consequence of the grant (e.g. being able to wash their hands on arrival at the community centre, reading a health information poster put on display).
- The vast majority of the 9,022 individuals selected for direct support were those who face particular challenges, including a disability, extreme levels of poverty or ill health, and the staff of country-based organisations who work to assist or treat them.



Snapshots

The Corra grant to Smileawi provided PPE for 21 dental therapists in northern Malawi, allowing them to continue to treat patients: “we know that many hundreds maybe thousands of people will have been treated and relieved of pain during this time.” (Vicky Milne)



Africa On The Ball used the Corra grant to reach 500 people in rural Zambia with masks, food, school handwashing facilities and public health education on virus prevention through demonstrations and a mural.



Malawi Fruits agricultural advisors support subsistence farmers, helping to keep essential food production and supply going, and here sharing a message of thanks to funders for their support during the pandemic.



Areas of work

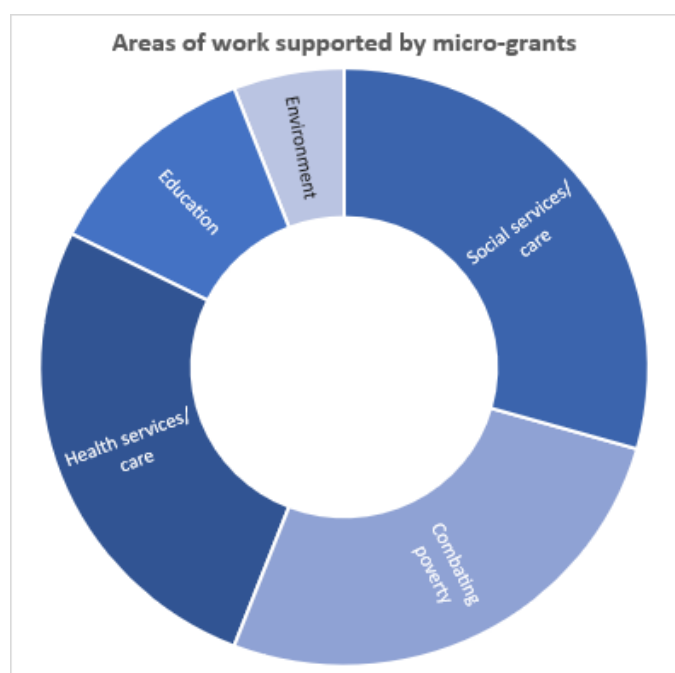
While there was no formal reporting requirement for the grants, an invitation to share information on how the funds were spent was positively received. Many organisations commented that the speed of the process and unrestricted nature of the grant were particularly helpful, and all grantholders provided Corra with details on how the funds were spent.

Supporting health & social care, combating poverty

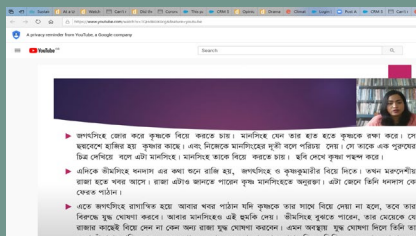
Many of the Corra micro-grants supported health workers, in some cases providing the PPE that meant they could continue to provide essential care and treatment which would otherwise have stopped.

Others funded PPE and handwashing facilities for schools or small-holder farmer support services, or communications equipment or data bundles, to help ensure healthcare, education and food production could continue safely.

Almost all included a component of public health information and support for awareness raising on coronavirus and prevention steps that will have contributed to disease control efforts in those communities.



Charity Education International and UttarBangla University College in rural Bangladesh used the Corra grant to pay non-teaching staff salaries and help shift studies online, including through Youtube.



The Turing Trust used the Corra grant for PPE, awareness raising, handwashing facilities and national staff salaries, all key to keeping their work supporting IT education in Malawi going. *"All of us at the Turing Trust are extremely grateful to the fantastic team at the Corra Foundation for their inspired support during the pandemic. As always Corra have demonstrated their ability to go above and beyond in supporting their grantholders. We couldn't ask for a better group of people to be working with, thank you!"* (James Turing)

The 50 tapped buckets bought for handwashing as part of the Corra grant to Lake Victoria Disability Centre in rural Tanzania, helping it continue important treatment for children and adults, as well as sharing public health messages across rural areas.



LUV+ and the Tanzanian Leprosy Association used the Corra grant to reach out to 200 people affected by leprosy in isolated communities without other support, providing them with medicine, PPE and hygiene supplies. The report highlighted that these efforts had additional significance for many of those reached, signalling that "someone was thinking about them and trying to improve their lives."

Snapshots

Mike Knox of Twende Pamoja led the spend of the Corra grant to keep Tanzanian schools and students linked and learning IT during lockdown; he passed away in early September 2020 in Tanzania. *"Mike was able to realise much more of his vision for improving the life chances and experiences of young people due to the grant funding. We are all grateful for that."* (Maria McCann)



About Corra

Corra Foundation exists to make a difference to the lives of people and communities. It works with others to encourage positive change, opportunity, fairness and growth of aspirations which improve quality of life. Corra wants to see a society in which people create positive change and enjoy fulfilling lives.

In 2020 Corra launched a ten-year strategy. It is long term because making a difference on the big challenges will take time. At its heart is the strong belief that when people find their voice, they unlock the power to make change happen.

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