



Resilient, Adaptive and Agile

The impact of refugee community organisations during Covid-19 and the role played by Scottish Refugee Council's Participative Community Funding Process

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Introduction

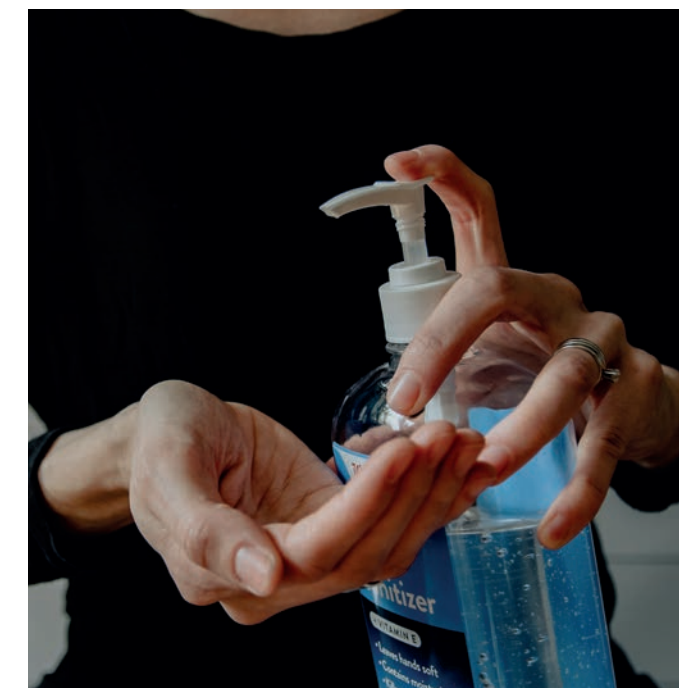
“Scotland’s communities are a rich source of energy, creativity and talent. They are made up of people with rich and diverse backgrounds who each have something to contribute to making Scotland flourish.”¹

This report explores the ways in which the participative community funding process developed by Scottish Refugee Council’s Communities Team, has played a role in harnessing the talents and resilience of New Scots. This has been amply demonstrated during the Covid-19 pandemic, where the participative funding model has supported refugee-led and refugee-assisting groups to identify and meet the needs of their members and of the wider communities in which they operate.

Outside the Covid-19 response, the participative community funding process has the potential to strengthen community integration. Firstly, through offering an accessible route to financial support for refugee-led and small refugee-assisting groups to deliver integration activities across Scotland. Secondly, because the funding process itself, as outlined below, supports the development of social connections within and amongst people, communities and organisations.

The report begins with an exploration of the impact of funding made available at this critical time, outlining the contribution made by Scotland’s migrant and refugee communities during the pandemic, who, like other grass-roots organisations across Scotland, have stepped up to fill gaps in statutory provision to some of their communities’ most marginalised members. We then outline the development and potential for the participative funding process to support work with communities across any number of domains, suggesting that adopting the principles and process insights from this work will continue to empower and involve communities at every stage of the funding cycle.

This report focusses only on funding secured and disseminated by Scottish Refugee Council and not on funding secured directly by refugee-assisting or refugee-led groups. Our observations are not therefore designed to imply that our funding process has been the only source of support for communities at this time, but to provide a snapshot view of the impact of this model of participative funding and its potential for the future.



¹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/community-empowerment-scotland-act-summary/>



Section One

Covid-19 community response

Recognising the role of communities

“A positive media narrative surrounding the pandemic has been the rise of mutual aid groups and communities coming together in a range of ways to support those in need [...] third sector and community self-support has not just filled the gap but prevented catastrophe for some.”²

It is increasingly recognised that communities have had a critical role to play during the Covid-19 pandemic. While the many stories of mutual aid and community activism that have emerged from the situation confirm the resilience and capacity of communities to respond quickly and effectively to people who are in crisis, this reliance upon grass-roots mobilisation can also be “understood as a sign of neglect [by statutory services] of people in particularly marginalised situations.”³

For New Scots communities, including people seeking asylum, refugees and other migrants who have made Scotland their home, the importance of community and the reliance upon community, rather than statutory, provision of support to meet essential needs, is not a new phenomenon. Rather, in a context where members are often purposefully excluded from statutory systems of support, communities have long been central to understandings not only of the ways in which New Scots access information and essential

items; but also to the process of integration itself. Joining new communities, be these based on shared interests, residence in the same neighbourhood or shared faith, nationality or sexual orientation, for example, comprises for many an essential component of what it means to belong in Scotland.⁴

As such, Scottish Refugee Council is committed, through its strategic plan, to working to collaborate with and empower refugee-led groups as well as other grass-roots community and third sector organisations. The participative funding process, one of the central components of this work, emerged from a Small Grants Scheme that, from 2018 onwards, funded communities across Scotland to put on events during Refugee Festival Scotland⁵ and was refined as part of the New Scots Integration: Rights and Communities Programme⁶. Critical to the success of the model have been existing relationships with community groups fostered by Scottish Refugee Council’s network of Regional Integration Coordinators and brought together in the New Scots Connect Forum.⁷ The funding process has brought twenty new groups and members into the New Scots Connect network,⁸ which currently has 147 members.

² Armstrong, S., Pickering, L. et al, (2020). Left Out and Locked Down: Impacts of Covid-19 Lockdown for Marginalised Groups in Scotland. See: https://scotlandinlockdown.files.wordpress.com/2020/12/scotlock_project_report_full_dec2020-2.pdf

³ ibid

⁴ For the role of Refugee Community Organisations in integration, see for example: https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/A_bridge_to_life_in_the_UK_Oct_2018.pdf. For reflections on the more general importance of social connections, see Alison B. Strang, Neil Quinn, Integration or Isolation? Refugees’ Social Connections and Wellbeing, *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 2019;, fez040, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jrs/fez040>

⁵ See <https://www.refugeefestivalscotland.co.uk/>

⁶ New Scots Integration: Rights & Communities was a Scotland-wide programme to welcome and support the integration of people who have received refugee protection. Over two years (2018-2020), the programme directly supported 1190 New Scots to achieve their ambitions for work, education and community life; and 189 organisations across Scotland to build their capacity to welcome and support the integration of New Scots. See: <https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/new-toolkits-to-support-refugee-integration-in-scotland-and-beyond/>

⁷ **Scottish Refugee Council, (2021). New Scots Integration: Rights & Communities Toolkit 2 – Building national and regional infrastructure to support refugee integration**, Scottish Refugee Council. See: <https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Building-infrastructure-to-support-refugee-integration-2.pdf>

⁸ Figures collated by Scottish Refugee Council Communities team.

Scope of work

During the Covid-19 pandemic, these existing relationships with refugee-led and refugee-assisting groups were fundamental to successfully disbursing monies from three different funding streams. 116 community groups received funding from these 3 small grant schemes; 41.4% (48) of these groups were refugee-led with 58.6% (68) being refugee-assisting groups. In total, £396k were disbursed with 45% (£178k) to refugee-led groups and 55% (£218k) to refugee-assisting groups.

The three funding streams are summarised briefly below, using figures collated by Scottish Refugee Council’s funding team.

In November 2020, Scottish Refugee Council secured an additional £350k from Foundation Scotland and the Corra Foundation to Improve Community Resilience with projects to run between February and July 2021.⁹ As the delivery of projects is still ongoing, details are not included within his report.



New Scots Integration Rights and Communities¹⁰ AMIF Small Grant Scheme April 2020.

As part of the package of funding provided by the EU’s Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, Scottish Refugee Council developed their Small Grants Scheme to support refugee-led and refugee-assisting organisations across Scotland to hold arts and cultural activities during Refugee Festival Scotland.¹¹ Decisions on the 2020 funding round were made in March just before national lockdown. Subsequently, successful groups were advised that they could choose to repurpose their grants to support their community during Covid-19; deliver their planned event or project digitally; or postpone their event or project till later in the year. 26 of the 52 successful groups chose to use these funds to provide direct support, allowing them to respond quickly to the immediate impacts of lockdown restrictions in their communities.

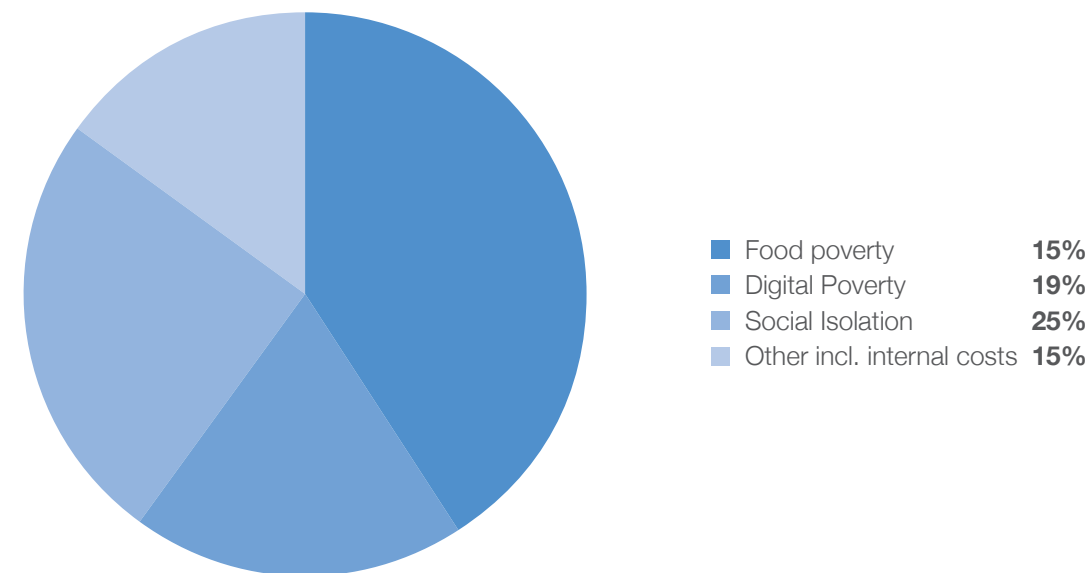
In total, £45.7k of funding was distributed; with grants totalling £24.2k distributed to the 26 community groups who chose to meet the immediate needs during the Covid-19 pandemic.

⁹ Funding secured from Foundation Scotland and the Corra Foundation was disbursed in 2 Schemes with grants up to £5k. Scheme 1, for 30 refugee-led groups to create a programme of capacity building training, including the introduction of Community Digital Champions to improve community resilience and enhance their digital service delivery. Scheme 2, for refugee-assisting organisations to enhance digital support to refugee families and improve their connectivity, inclusion and integration.

¹⁰ Scottish Refugee Council, (2021). *New Scots Integration: Rights & Communities Toolkit 3 – Tools to support community integration*, Scottish Refugee Council. See: <https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Tools-to-support-community-integration-3.pdf>

¹¹ Scottish Refugee Council, (2021). *New Scots Integration: Rights & Communities Toolkit 3 – Tools to support community integration*, Scottish Refugee Council. See: <https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Tools-to-support-community-integration-3.pdf>

Figure 1: Needs addressed through AMIF Small Grants Scheme funding



Foundation Scotland Covid-19 Response Fund (May 2020)

Between 17 March 2020 and 28 April 2020, Scottish Refugee Council Regional Integration Co-coordinators contacted 90 community groups throughout the New Scots Connect network and 10 local authorities by phone and email to understand the needs of their communities.¹² The top three needs identified were: food and medicine distribution to communities; procuring technology (laptops, tablets, phones) and data (mobile phone top-ups); and support in tackling social isolation.

Using an adapted version of the process for the distribution of Small Grants, Scottish Refugee Council supported refugee-led community groups and local groups working with refugees and asylum seekers across Scotland, with funding up to £5k, to adapt or increase their existing services and resources to address the needs of their community during the initial Covid-19 lockdown period.

Small grants totalling £224,694 were distributed to 57 groups and anticipated to benefit 5613 people by addressing a wide range of community needs including £91.2k (41%) spent on distribution of food and necessities; £83.1k (37%) on digital poverty; and £25.1k (11%) to tackle social isolation.

Figure 2: Foundation Scotland Covid19 Response Fund – Anticipated number of beneficiaries by region

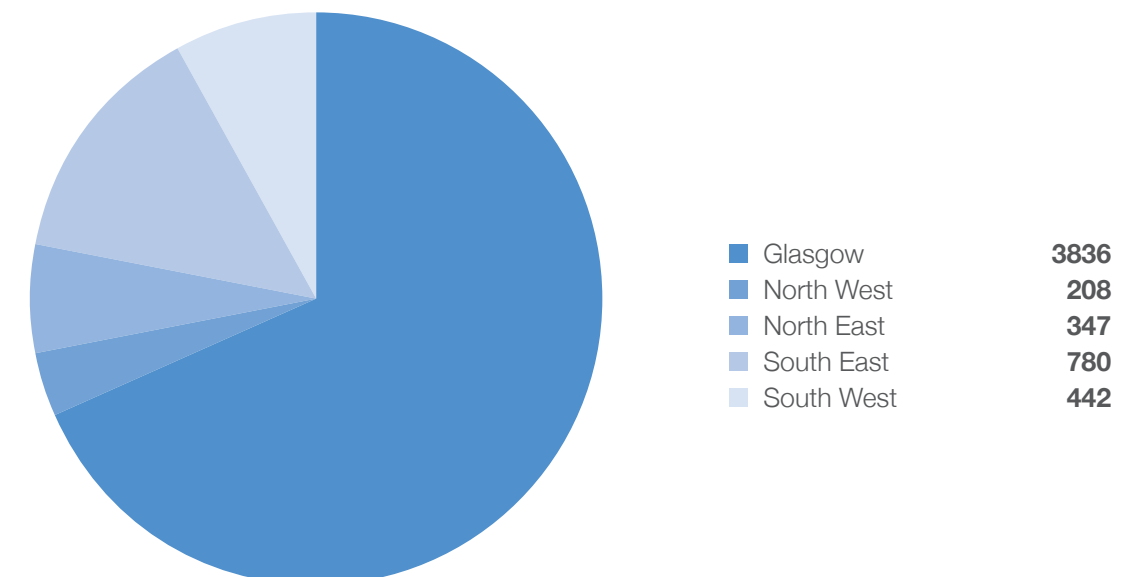
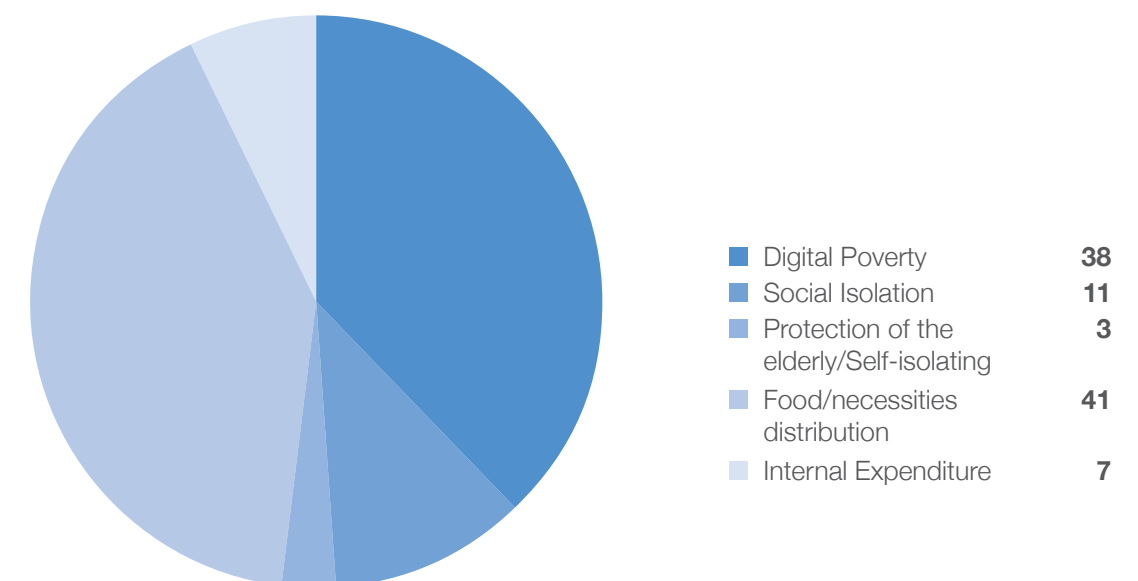
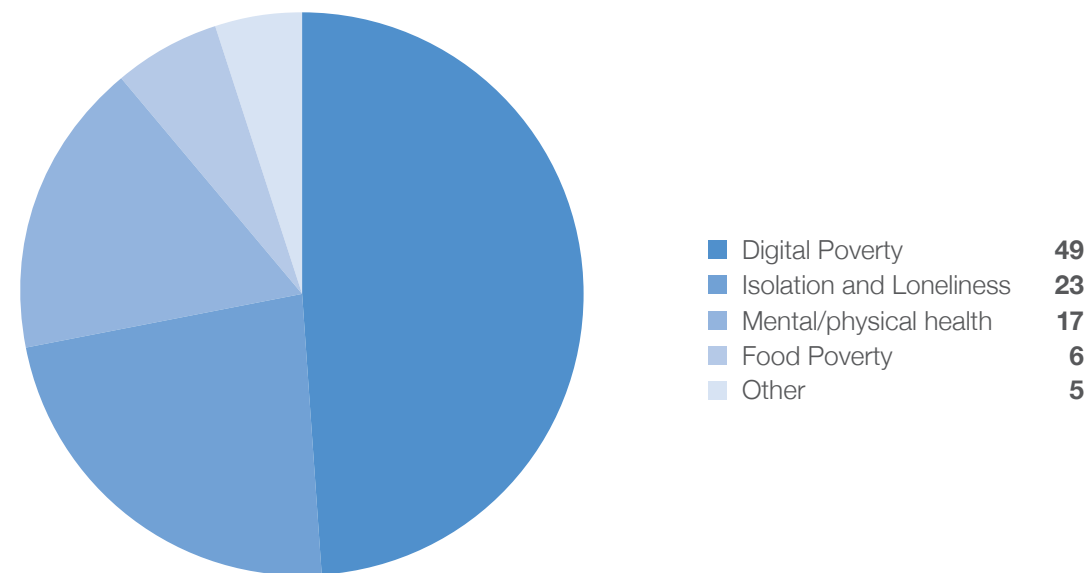


Figure 3: Foundation Scotland Covid19 Response Fund – Community Needs Addressed



¹² Scottish Refugee Council also participated in Refugee Action's Covid-19 Information and Data hub to understand the needs of refugee-assisting organisations in other parts of the UK and to provide information from Scotland to build a UK-wide picture of ongoing and changing needs. See: <https://www.ragp.org.uk/blog/data-hub-bulletin-02>

Figure 4: Supporting Communities Fund percentage spend on community needs



Scottish Government Supporting Communities Fund (June – August 2020)

In July 2020, Scottish Refugee Council surveyed 290 refugees living in Scotland and 75 organisations supporting and working with them on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.¹³ Based on the findings, Scottish Refugee Council provided grants of up to £2.5k to enable activities and community support work that addressed:

- Isolation and loneliness,
- Technical/technology poverty,
- Deteriorating mental/physical health, and
- Food poverty.

Round one: eight local groups received £19,950 of funding to provide immediate assistance, essentials and support to asylum seekers affected by the Park Inn incident in Glasgow.

Round two: £108,410 distributed to 48 groups across Scotland to meet areas of community need.

Impact of funded projects and interventions



The selected case studies below outline some of the ways in which funds distributed through the participative funding process have had a positive impact in the communities it is designed to support. They highlight the breadth of work undertaken by communities and the ways in which their insider knowledge and resources have ensured that funds are used in ways that most benefit community members.¹⁴ We have grouped them under three impact areas: access to essentials; well-being and social connections; and organisational resilience; although we recognise that there is significant overlap between each category. Quotes were gathered from project beneficiaries by the community groups themselves.



¹³ <https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Covid-impact-survey.pdf>

¹⁴ These case studies were gathered by means of a simple monitoring evaluation process. Groups are asked to complete a simple online form, and they can request support from Scottish Refugee Council to do so. The evaluation form builds a case study through questions that capture the scale and impact of the work. Information is also collected on financial spending and this along with the narrative case study element demonstrates that the money is being spent effectively.

Access to essentials

African Lanarkshire for Mental Health

Funding provided through the Small Grants Scheme ensured that a contact person was available 24/7 to provide help and support to people who need somebody to talk to. A team of volunteers provided food, sanitisers and masks to families who were at high risk and in self isolation and those unable to go out to the shops.

44 families were supported, in total 150 people. This funding helped community members to feel cared for during Covid-19 and ensure that families had enough food to put on the table.

“My mom have been ill for a long time and I have not enough time to provide food and collect her prescription but African Lanarkshire for Mental Health have made it easy for me.”

The Yemeni Community in Scotland

To identify needs, the community created an online application form where the applicant would prioritise his/her needs by rating them from 1 – 4 (most important – least important). Most of the applicants were asylum seekers and some of them were living in hotels where they had little or no access to cash. In order for them to be connected to the outer world and to help them progress in their lives, the group provided 17 individuals with tablets, clothing and food.

“Our community would have been in continuous dire condition. We are happy that we at least managed to help them worry less about providing for themselves.”



Well-being & social connections

Sewing2gether All Nations

The provision of a small grant enabled the group to develop an outreach model, ensuring that existing and new participants could benefit from community sewing and social activities during the Covid-19 pandemic. Project leads delivered foundation sewing packs and sewing machines to the doorsteps of the group members. They then facilitated weekly sewing activities using online tools.

24 participants and an additional 32 children and family members took part. The group also provided toiletry packs for 25 people who were evacuated from the Park Inn Hotel. Without the additional funding provided through the Small Grants Scheme, outreach activities would have been curtailed and the community would have been more isolated, with members losing their sewing skills and having fewer opportunities to use their English.

“I miss the sewing class. I am so happy to receive the packs”

“It’s a real good help for us in these days”

The Braveheart Association

The group used their small grant to provide Syrian refugees in Falkirk with weekly virtual health and stress management sessions; online meetings and messaging services to ensure that everyone had access to translated versions of official health guidelines and updates on Covid-19; and regular zoom meetings and phone calls to assist members to overcome isolation and confront their loneliness.

28 adults and 12 families are currently benefiting from the different activities and support. People said that these opportunities to keep active, and encourage participating in different activities, help them to combat their feelings of stress and isolation, improve their language and promote health and well-being for themselves and their families. Staff have noted that the funding helped to uncover a great resilience within the organisation.

“Participating in the weekly meetings had given me the opportunity to take a break from my daily routine and express freely my concerns and feelings”

“The idea is brilliant. It is proof that the Braveheart is really for healthy lives”

Gambians and Friends in Scotland Community Association (GAMSCA)

The association bought football training equipment for children, hired pitches and organised football matches for children in the community. This was identified as a need because many children had been stuck in their flats since the beginning of lockdown and expressed how much they missed being out exercising and would love to continue to do so. The organisation hopes to build on this initial work to hold regular weekend training sessions once Covid-19 restrictions are relaxed.

69 children participated in the two games facilitated through the funding.

“I really enjoy football and it’s really fun coming to play with everyone and if it wasn’t for the football I would mostly be stuck in the house with nothing to do” (Child)

“The football was a great thing .my kids really enjoy interacting with other kids and football is the best way to interact. It really help them specially during this lockdown.” (Parent)

Organisational resilience

Friends For All Project (FFAP)

The Friends for All Project supports vulnerable households of ethnic minority groups, especially, but not limited to, those of Afro-Caribbean extraction. At the onset of the Pandemic, FFAP mobilized available funds in-house to launch a Covid-19 Resilience Project. The project delivers food and other basic household items, supports purchases of top up cards, offers phone calls to explain new guidelines on Covid-19, and offers referrals to other community associations. The initial project was intended to support 60 households but was overwhelmed by demand from over 300+ households requesting the support. A Scottish Refugee Council Small Grant enabled the organisation to support an additional 70 families with the service.

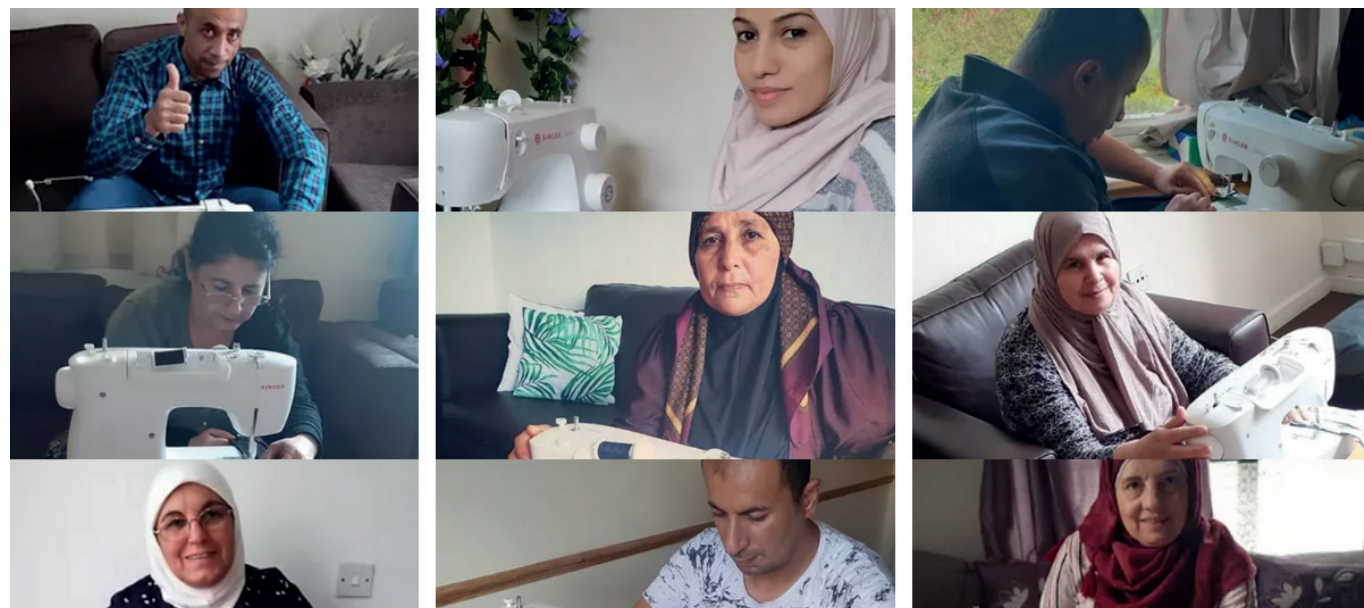
“The resilience and commitment of the organisation to the community was tested in this crisis. The funding has helped the organisation to learn that when the need arises, we can be resilient, adaptive, and agile. [...] This fund was Godsent as the impact of Covid-19 on the Afro-Caribbean community in Glasgow and its environs would have been devastating without it.”

Renfrewshire Effort to Empower Minorities

The grant helped the group to support staff members to work remotely and adhere to physical distancing regulations during the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result of this improved staff capacity, 50 individuals directly benefited from financial support to keep them connected, while more than 300 individuals were kept engaged using through online connections.

Through a befriending programme, the group made weekly phone calls to people who live by themselves during lockdown, partly to keep them connected and cut across their loneliness, but also to understand areas of need where they could support them or initiate referrals. Other families and individuals were engaged through video activities, mostly for the children who were badly in need or both entertainment and learning opportunities.

“The funding helped us to identify and improve our resilience in supporting vulnerable families during times of need. Many of the families we supported would have fallen into deeper social problems had we not had the funding to extend support.”



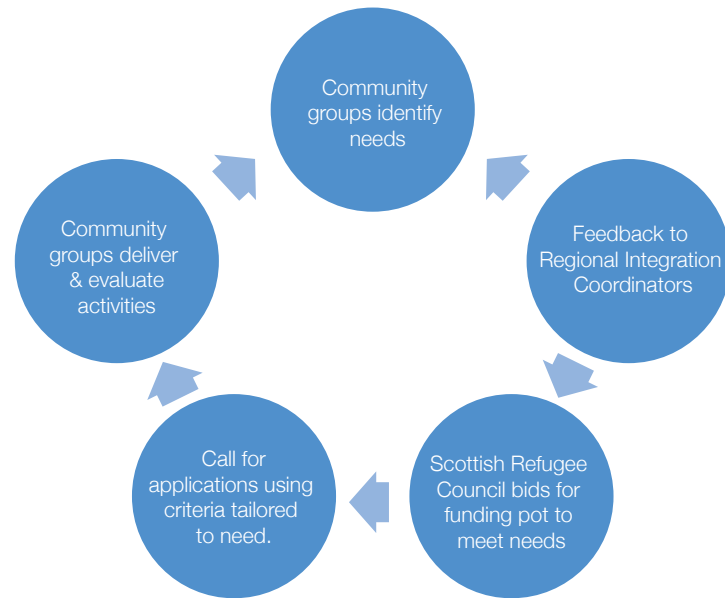


Section Two

Process and principles

Putting principles into practice

Figure 5: Community involvement in the participative funding process



In this section, we turn from the specific impact made by communities during the Covid-19 pandemic to outline the key elements of the participative funding process. The premise of the participative funding process is that communities are resilient. That is, by progressively developing capacity within these community groups, particularly refugee-led groups, to complete an application form, obtain funding and deliver and evaluate their intervention, groups will have confidence to apply for grants from other funders and be able to demonstrate a track record of delivery to support their application.

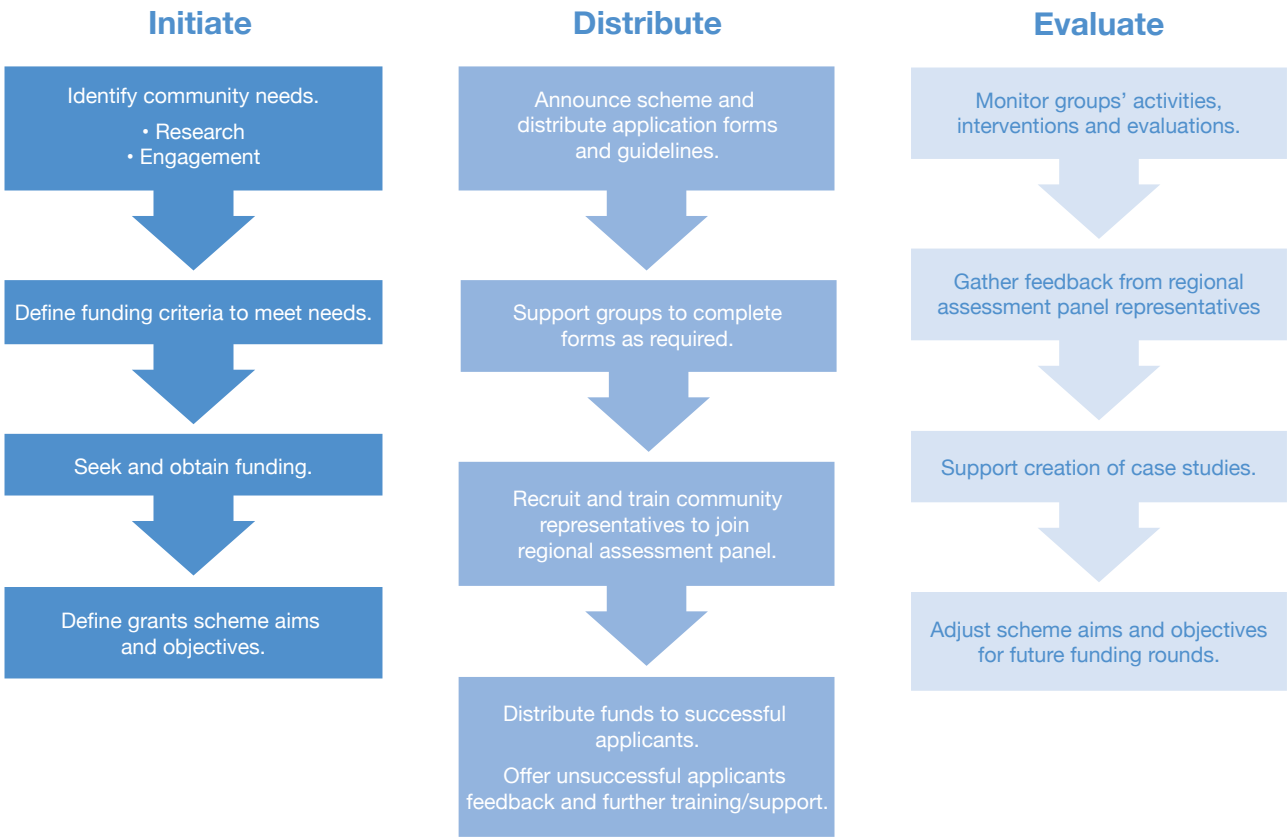
It is also recognised that groups based within and run by the communities they serve hold the most accurate and up-to-date knowledge of needs and are often best placed to address them in a relatively quick and cost-effective way. This has all been confirmed by the strength of community responses to Covid-19. Harnessing this knowledge and capacity though requires community involvement at all stages of the funding process. The participative funding process we describe in more detail offers a model of ensuring this, as illustrated below.

While communities are the key partners in the participative funding process, various statutory and voluntary organisations have supported previous funding cycles. There has been collaboration with research institutions, notably Queen Margaret University whose academic research findings supported the identification of areas of priority across Scotland during the Covid-19 pandemic. The New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy has also provided a forum for discussing and promoting the funding model.

It is also important to stress that the process is evaluated using feedback from community groups and their representatives as well as internal staff involved in the process. This enables any shortcomings in communication and clarifications of content to be addressed before the next funding round.

This flowchart outlines the stages of the participative funding process.

Figure 6: Participative Funding Process Flowchart



It is designed to be flexible and responsive; having been tested and refined repeatedly during the Covid-19 pandemic, it can now be adapted to relevant contexts with the proviso that every stage is shaped by the principles described below: access, empowerment and integration.

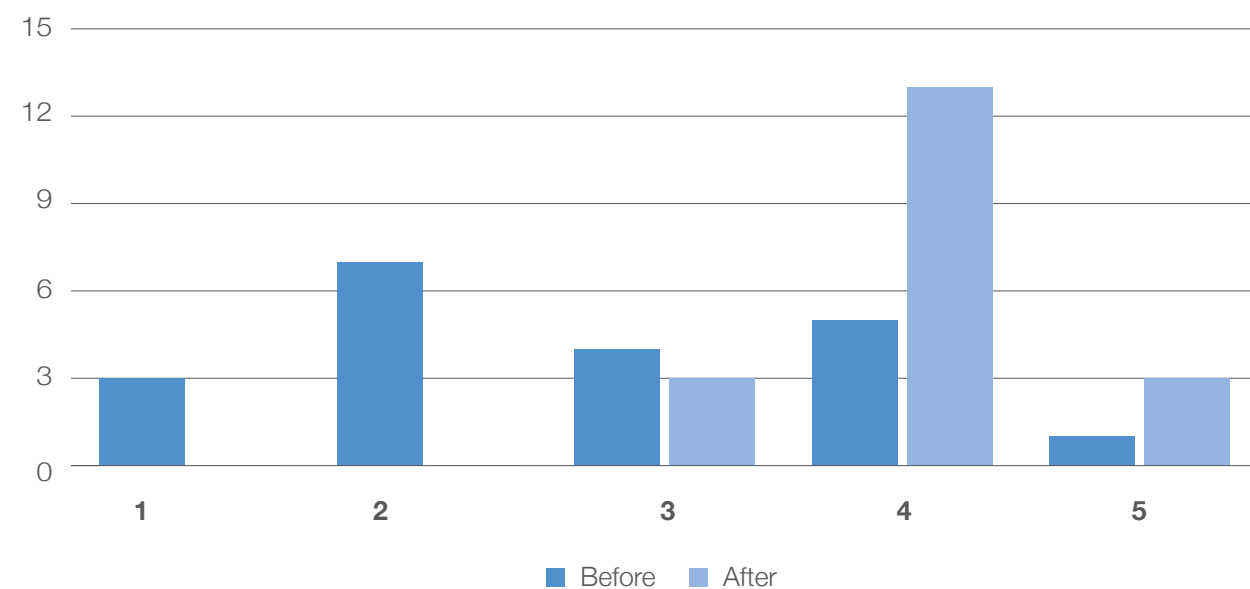
Three principles underpin the initiation, distribution and evaluation stages of the participative process.

- Access

A fundamental aim of the participative process is to ensure that community groups that have not previously engaged with formal funding processes are able to successfully apply for money to fund projects that will serve their members. As such, the application process

has been streamlined to remove barriers to completing it successfully. Forms and processes are presented in plain English and easy to navigate formats. Groups whose initial applications are unsuccessful are offered support, including training sessions, to equip them to access this or similar funding in future. Following the Foundation Scotland Covid-19 funding round a Writing Funding Applications training event was held on-line for 16 groups across Scotland. Eight of these groups went on to successfully apply for the Scottish Government Supporting Communities Fund, six of these had failed with the Foundation Scotland Covid-19 fund. One of these groups achieved the highest evaluation score for the Support Communities Fund, with other groups ranked 6th (having had lowest score in the previous round) and 7th.

Figure 7: Workshop evaluations from 20 community representatives



Information about funding criteria and deadlines is shared with as wide a range of organisations as possible across Scotland, using the New Scots Connect Forum and various digital platforms. Regional Integration Coordinators have held local engagement sessions, both on a drop-in and a one-to-one basis; and are available to support groups from end to end of the application and evaluation process.

- Empowerment

Community representatives participate at every stage of the funding cycle, from identifying the needs of their communities to co-designing funding bids and finally through the distribution and evaluation of monies spent. This flow of information, from communities to Regional Integration Coordinators and back to the Scottish Refugee Council teams ensures that from the outset, funding calls represent, to the greatest extent possible, the real and current needs of communities.

Involvement of refugee representatives at all stages of the process is critical to ensuring that the process is transparent and accessible. Refugee representatives sit on each Regional Assessment Panel and are provided with full training on their roles and responsibilities within the application evaluation process. At the end of the process, they are provided with certificates of achievement to confirm their participation, the skills developed and their contribution. Moreover, as shown in figure eight, the ratio of recipient group types across the three funding schemes delivered in 2020 improved for refugee-led groups. As such, refugees and people seeking asylum have not just benefited from activities but have increasingly both instigated and delivered them.

- Integration

As the impact case studies above highlight, the participative funding process has supported the delivery of activities that support integration, at individual and community level, across various domains of the Indicators of Integration framework.

Figure 8: Profile of groups benefiting from funding during 2020

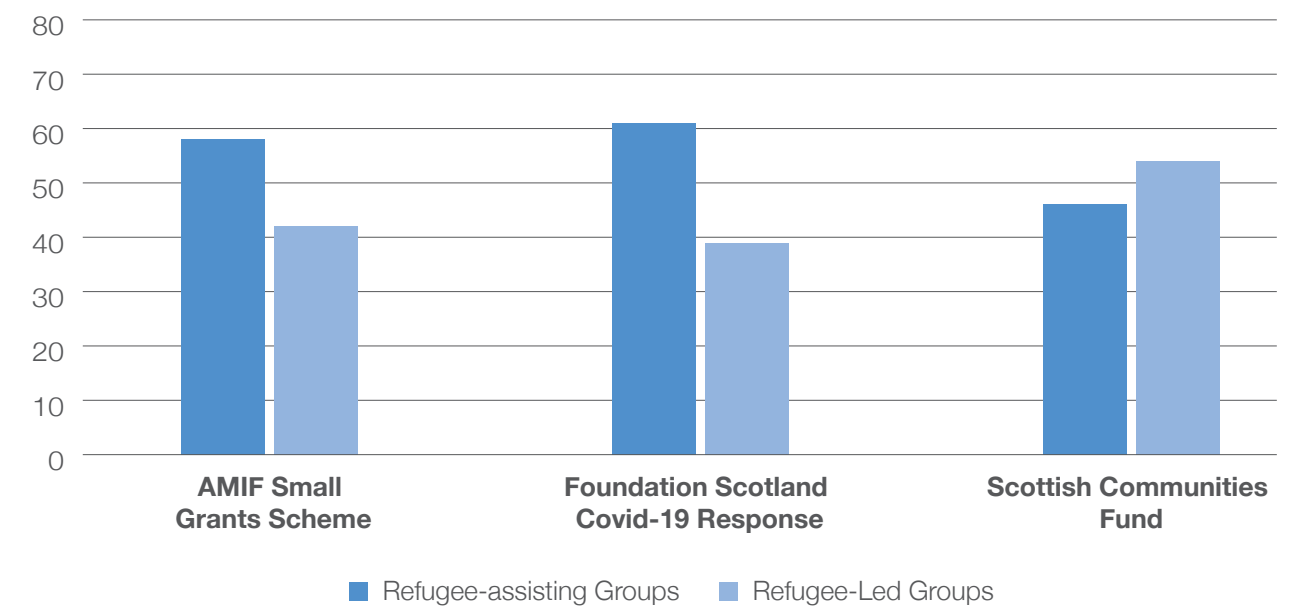
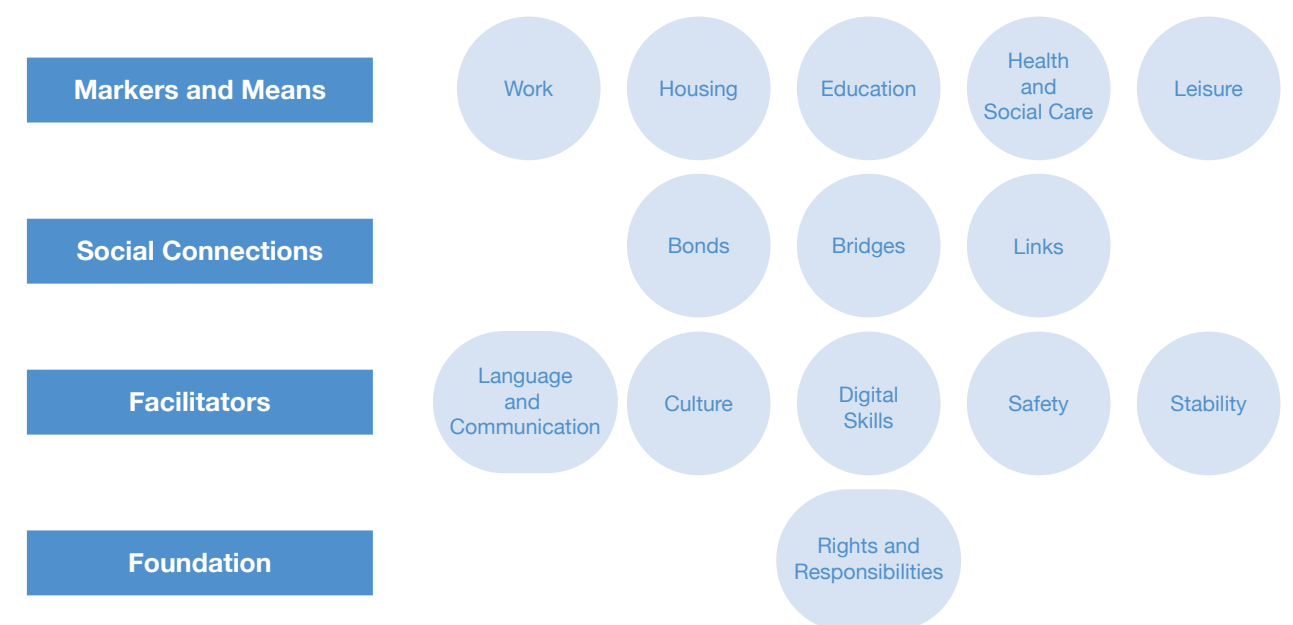


Figure 9: Indicators of Integration Framework¹⁵



¹⁵ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/835573/home-office-indicators-of-integration-framework-2019-horr109.pdf

However, more fundamentally, the participative funding process supports integration through its dual role in the formation of social connections, themselves recognised as central to the framework above. Firstly, the work funded by the Small Grants Scheme has provided opportunities for people to connect. For example, evaluators found that 21 of the 30 events funded by the AMIF Small Grants Scheme in 2019 promoted “bridging” social connections, bringing together people from different backgrounds.¹⁶ Secondly, participation in Regional Assessment Panels and the New Scots Connect Forum has enabled refugees and people seeking asylum to play a role in decision-making that directly affects their communities, linking them as individuals and as community representatives to statutory and voluntary sector professionals and services.



“I was offered an opportunity to assist SRC in the delivery of a Small Grants Programme and chosen by SRC as I fit the criteria required for this task and have the time to assess and score applications. This task required reading and understanding the scoring guidelines. Then reading candidates’ applications thoroughly to see if they meet certain criteria.

This task required a lot of attention to details and I felt that it was a big responsibility. However, the skills I have and the support I received from SRC made this task much easier as they were very helpful and approachable. I am glad that I was able to make fair decisions in the end and I would like to say that I really enjoyed this experience and I found it very beneficial for me.”

Feedback from a full-time Upper Intermediate ESOL student on her role as a refugee representative on the South West Region Evaluation Panel.

Current and future plans

Scottish Refugee Council has secured an additional £350k with Foundation Scotland and the Corra Foundation to improve community resilience and has disseminated funding through the participative community funding process. 44 projects have just received their funding and a further 26 groups will be receiving their grants in the next few weeks. This funding has included introducing new elements of:

- capacity building for refugee community leaders to undertake community-level needs assessments and prioritise areas of need; and
- training for community members to become Community Champions, initially in digital technology and support.

We would welcome further academic engagement with community groups who have applied for funding to explore their experiences of the process, the direct and indirect impacts on community resilience and integration, with the aim of using research findings to support the development of the participative funding model.

Scottish Refugee Council does not aspire to be a grant-making organisation but will consider this role in relation to supporting communities through ongoing Covid-19 impacts and social renewal as Scotland emerges from the pandemic. Nevertheless, we are keen to partner with statutory and philanthropic funders now and in the future to adopt and further the approach. The participative funding approach has the potential to contribute significantly to refugee integration at individual and community level. We suggest that the model could also be used as a lever to increase engagement with and involvement of community representatives across the New Scots Integration Strategy thematic groups.

Additional developments that could be considered include:

- Participatory Budgeting: creating opportunities for beneficiaries to identify, discuss, and prioritise spending on projects, giving them the power to make real decisions about how money is spent.
- Using research and evaluation findings: it is crucial that findings from current and future research and evaluation activities are relayed not only back to funders and to partners, but to communities themselves to ensure that everyone can benefit from this bank of knowledge. This could be achieved by developing participative and multi-media approaches to creatively engage with wider communities.



Conclusion

“Covid-19 has shone a light on the structural inequalities, poverty and disadvantage and the disproportionate impact the pandemic has had on different people and communities.”¹⁷

This report provides a perspective on the positive impact that refugee-led and refugee-assisting organisations have made to supporting people in often extremely precarious situations during the Covid-19 pandemic. It also sets out an innovative process to quickly disperse funding to these grass-roots organisations to meet very basic needs of welfare and social connection.

Refugee-led and refugee-assisting community organisations have been essential safety nets in supporting asylum seekers and refugees during the pandemic and are key actors in supporting refugee integration in the long term. But they cannot and should not replace functioning state welfare systems. As Scotland emerges out of the pandemic it is essential that the structural inequalities of the UK asylum system that placed asylum seekers and refugees in already vulnerable situations prior to the pandemic are fully addressed.



17 Social renewal report https://scotlandinlockdown.files.wordpress.com/2020/12/scotlock_project_report_full_dec2020-2.pdf

Acknowledgments



The report was written by Helen Baillot, Scott Preston, Jewels Lang and Gary Christie. Helen Baillot is an independent researcher whose work focuses on the experiences of refugees and people seeking asylum. Scott Preston is Scottish Refugee Council's New Scots Project Officer. Jewels Lang is the Communities Manager and Gary Christie is the Head of Policy, Communications and Communities at Scottish Refugee Council.

We wish to acknowledge the huge efforts, energy and skills of Scottish Refugee Council staff and volunteers, particularly in the Community Development, Finance and Funding Development teams. We are deeply grateful for the commitment and expertise given by the community representatives assessing the funding applications.

The work highlighted in this report would not have been possible without the financial support of the following funders: Foundation Scotland, Corra Foundation, National Emergencies Trust, Scottish Government and European Commission. We also wish to thank all of the funders under Global Migration's Respond and Adapt Fund whose support allowed us to develop and support these programmes and our wider response to Covid-19. We are deeply grateful for all of them for their support.

Our final thanks, respect and admiration go to all of the individuals, community groups and third sector organisations across Scotland who have played an unprecedented role in responding to the needs of people seeking asylum, refugees and many others in their communities. They have been agile, resilient and adaptive in meeting the very basic and changing needs of New Scots during this pandemic. Sadly, we are not able to list each and every one of them. The list, overleaf, highlights those who received funding through our funding schemes since March. It serves not just to thank these groups but to give an indication of the huge spread of active community assets in Scotland's response to Covid-19.



Community organisations that were awarded funding for any of the three funding schemes.

Africa Future	Jasmine and Thistle
Community Infosource	Gesture Exchange
Ethiopian Community In Scotland (Etho-Scottish Community)	Black Minority Ethnic Integration group
Glasgow Women's Library	The Conservation Volunteers Scotland (Building Roots programme)
Interfaith Glasgow	The Weekend Club- Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees (SFAR)
Nacusso – BYOL – Bring Your Own Language	West Lothian Al-Nour Syrian Community Group
Safety Awareness Glasgow	East Renfrewshire Faith Forum
African Collaborative Group	Congolese Community Unit in Scotland
Women Together (Freedom From Torture)	Massive Outpouring of Love (MOOL)
African Lanarkshire For Mental Health	Connections Cafe
Al-Amal Project	East Dunbartonshire Action for Refugees
CAT Scotland	“Food from the Wood” – The Children's Wood
Glasgow Living Waters Church	Afro-Scot CIC
ANYiSO	Cranhill Development Trust
As-Salam Community/Project	Freedom from Torture
Open Aye C.I.C	Esolperth
Saheliya	Govan Community Project
Champio	Govanhill Baths Community Trust
ns for	Fife Arabic Society (FAS)
Change	Mental Health Foundation
Sakinah Women's Group	Moments of Freedom
B.J.O Amara Association	Music Broth
Unity In The Kurdish Community	Power of Play project – Stepping Stones for Families
Deveron Projects	Stepping Stones for Families – Possilpark Child and Family Centre
Bestway Community Development	The Sikh Food Bank
Bikes for Refugees (Scotland) SCIO	Youth Community Support Agency
Fèisean nan Gàidheal	
Syrian Resettlement Programme	

Forth Valley Welcome
Bajuni Community Scotland
Cross Ethnic
Empower Women for Change (EWfC)
Friends For All Project
Iranian Community in Glasgow (ICG) X Music for Wellness
Next Step Initiative
Nigerian Muslim Community Scotland (SCIO)
Glasgow Afghan United
Glasgow ESOL Forum
Strathairlie Hub Syrian Refugee Project
With Refugees Broughty Ferry (WRBF)
Greatway Foundation
Bute Advice Centre
Inspiring Families Development Network Scotland (INFADENS)
International Women's Group
Edinburgh & Lothian Regional Equality Council
Edinburgh City Mission
Intercultural Youth Scotland
Multi Cultural Family Base (MCFB)
Isaro Community Initiative
Kurdish Women Community Group
Maryhill Integration Network
Afroscots United FC
Maslow's Community Shop
The Redeemed Christian Church of God, Zoe Parish Paisley
North East Glasgow Framework for Dialogue (FFD)
Heart Of Africa UK

Küche	WEA ESOL – Supporting Syrian Refugee Families – Highland
Pachedu	Rainbow Development Association
Pollokshields Development Agency	The Braveheart Association
St Rollox Community Outreach Project	The Steeple Church
STAR (Student Action for Refugees) Glasgow	SCOREscotland - Strengthening Communities for Race Equality Scotland
Afreshe	The Welcoming Association
AfricAlba (SCIO)	Fresh Start North Lanarkshire
CAMASS (Cameroonian Association & Sympathisers in Scotland)	Renfrewshire Effort to Empower Minorities (REEM)
Gambians & Friends in Scotland Community Association (GAMSCA)	Ubuntu Women Shelter
Re-Act (Refugee Action Scotland)	Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire SCIO
Glasgow North West Framework For Dialogue Group	Women's Support Project: Rights & Choices
Serve 2020	World Spirit Theatre
Migrants Organising For Rights and Empowerment	
Persian Scottish Community Interest Group	
Scottish Arab Womens Association	
Sewing2gether All Nations	
Share My Voice	
The Bright Action Team	
The Builders	
The Yemeni Community In Scotland	
Sharpen Her: the African Women's Network (SHAWN)	
St Aloysius Church ESOL Group	
Friends of the Amal Project	
Sudanese Community in Glasgow	
Synergy	





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Front Cover: Tuoyo, pictured, runs the Heart of Africa Community Café in Bridgeton.
Our grant enabled him to support families with no internet access to get laptops.