

NEWS LETTER

 King Baudouin
Foundation
Working together for a better society

Under the Honorary Chairmanship of HM Queen Mathilde

SUMMER 2023

Be PHILANTHROPY

Gathered for giving
Sharing ideas, looking to the future



EDITORIAL

Brieuc Van Damme
Chief Executive Officer

A NEW WORLD

It was a highlight of my time so far at the Foundation to meet so many of our donors, partners, and friends at Be Philanthropy 2023. I'm delighted to share in these pages some of the ideas and experiences exchanged that day. Coming exactly a year after I took on my role at KBF, it was a moment, too, for me to express my gratitude for – indeed, my sense of wonder at – discovering this extraordinary world of philanthropy.

For a child of the 80s, whose youth was bathed in the optimism that followed the Cold War only to come to adulthood with 9/11 and two decades of global crises, exploring the universe of philanthropy, with people trying daily to make the world a better place, has reawakened in me a sense of boundless possibility. I hope you, too, are inspired by our Be Philanthropy discussions, on accountability and diversity, on adopting tech and young people's new approaches, on public-private collaboration, on risk and innovation. On the notion, too, so ably expressed by HM Queen Mathilde and our guest Forest Whitaker, that everyone has something to give – and will benefit from doing so.

In terms of variety, I marvel at the range of responses our donors have found after a year of war in Ukraine – from caring for refugees and other vulnerable groups to bolstering independent media, not just in Ukraine but also for Russians. We have news, too, of work we and our Myriad partners are doing for earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria and for young people in Africa and Asia. And we have art, historic and contemporary. Director Lukas Dhont, fresh from an Oscar nomination, weaves a thread between his films and his work for LGBTIQ+ rights with *Forbidden Colours*. And we have a taster of the splendid exhibition from our own collection which marks Brussels' Year of Art Nouveau.

I invite you to explore it in full at the BELvue museum and, as I thank our donors and the Belgian National Lottery and its players for their support throughout the year, I wish you a wonderful summer.

The King Baudouin Foundation is an independent, pluralistic foundation working in Belgium and at European and international level. We are seeking to change society for the better, so we invest in inspiring projects and individuals. The Foundation was set up in 1976, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of King Baudouin's reign.

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GIVING FOR ALL

BE PHILANTHROPY 2023



Inclusion, youth, cross-border, collaboration, tech, impact, accountability... Change. Hope. Words that resonated throughout exchanges among 1,100 guests from the international philanthropic community at [KBF's Be Philanthropy 2023 event](#) in Brussels.

The gathering on 27 April was the first for the King Baudouin Foundation's normally triennial event after a pandemic-induced six-year gap. There was much to catch up on, not least as Covid-19, followed by natural disasters and war in Ukraine, have demonstrated philanthropy's speed and flexibility in a crisis - as well as its ability to channel broad public movements of goodwill to wherever help is most needed.

'Memories of Forgotten Beings', music specially written and conducted by renowned Belgian composer Dirk Brossé to evoke a "bottom up" view of philanthropy, welcomed guests to the Autoworld museum before HM Queen Mathilde set the tone for the day. Recent troubles have raised awareness of our inter-dependence, our "collective fragility", she said, noting the virtuous circle by which donation benefits not just the receiver but the giver.



The Queen, who is Honorary President of the Foundation, posed a series of questions that donors, advisers, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and experts would address in workshops on the themes of Be Responsible, Be Enabled, Be Innovative, and Be Engaged. How should we ensure impact, she asked, or better listen to those in need? How to encourage everyone in society to share what they have – with time and skills as welcome as financial support?

Oscar-winning American actor Forest Whitaker, in a recorded interview, shared his delight in not only helping young people in troubled regions to find ways out of conflict but in seeing those grantees go on to build their own programmes to help others in their communities.

As Pierre Wunsch, the KBF chairman, said “philanthropy is a state of mind” and a vital element of a democratic society, bringing individuals together and complementing the work of public bodies. That collaboration between public and private action was, said Belgium’s Deputy Prime Minister Vincent Van Peteghem, of growing importance, with philanthropists showing more accountability and state actors more appreciative of what they can offer in terms of speed, innovation, and risk-taking.

Policy makers should therefore make sure philanthropy can thrive within a stimulating regulatory and fiscal environment. KBF CEO Brieuc Van Damme underlined in his closing remarks that philanthropy is about empowerment, not pity.

Full recordings of the day’s discussions, as well as a photo record, are available on our website:

<https://kbs-frb.be/en/be-philanthropy-2023-0>.

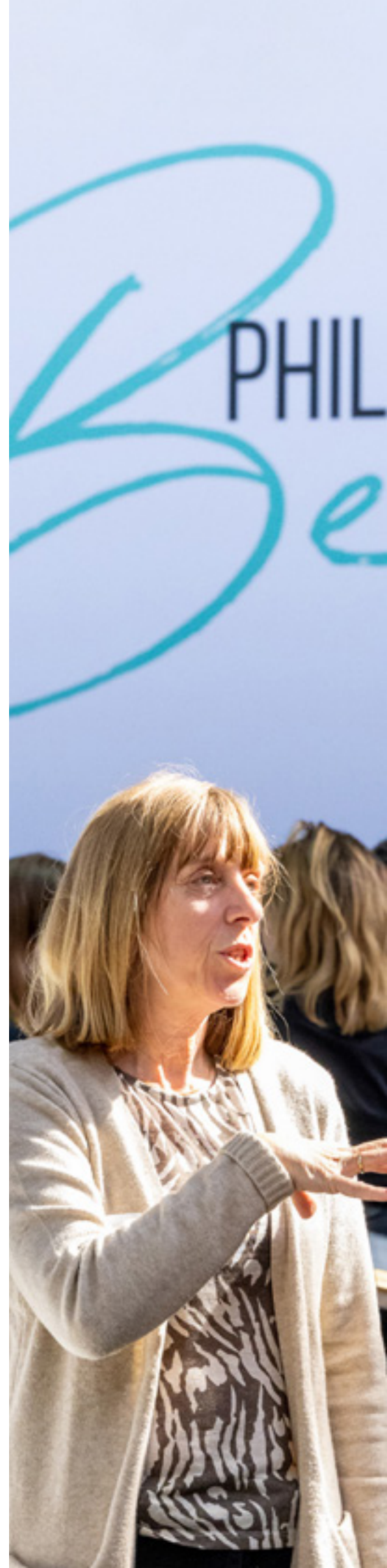
Here is a taste of Be Philanthropy 2023, in words and pictures.

HM Queen Mathilde

A will to help and share may always have been a part of human nature, but the drive toward empathy has been strengthened in recent years by a new awareness of our collective fragility following the Covid pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and natural disasters such as the Belgian floods of 2021, or the latest earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Philanthropy is also singular in that everyone is a winner – since helping others brings happiness to those who receive but also to those who give.

Forest Whitaker, actor and philanthropist

I’m most proud of the beneficiaries ... It’s exciting to see them be able to mediate conflicts, go into communities and change their temperament and help them move toward peace.



Every person can be able to do something to help, small or big.

Kerstin Jorna, director general internal market, European Commission

Philanthropy is our partner. You've built up trust, you've shown you can deliver and, in particular, you've shown you can be complementary to public policy. In successive crises ... the collaboration of philanthropy has been really, really important.

Delphine Moralis, CEO, Philea - Philanthropy Europe Association

A crisis of trust in philanthropy ... has led to a deep reflection and a rapid, agile response from philanthropy.

There is an increase in flexible, trust-based, and collaborative approaches.

Philanthropy wants to collaborate much more with authorities, at local, national, and European level.

Laurence Lien, Asian Philanthropy Circle

A lot of people [in Asia] want to do more giving, but finding outlets is very difficult ... A lot of money is left on the table.

We need to build the capacity of individuals and institutions.

Ilwad Elman, Somalia peace activist and KBF Africa Prize laureate

In my part of the world, there is clear evidence of the important role young people are playing in peacemaking.

But in terms of letting young people lead with their solutions, there is much to be desired.

Beth Breeze, philanthropy expert, University of Kent

Philanthropists should be judged on whether what they did helped, not on who they are.

Philanthropy advisors need to offer a reality check, help donors think beyond their own perspective and ask

themselves if society needs what they intend to do. Good advice leads to more and better philanthropy.

Dirk Brossé, composer and conductor

'Memories of Forgotten Beings' is a silent cry for attention. We often view philanthropy from the top down. I wanted to raise a voice from the bottom up.

In doing so, I also hope to encourage my world, the cultural world, to contribute, according to its own means. We are a sector that itself depends on philanthropy. But everyone can do something. If you don't have money, you can offer opportunities to young talent.

Thomas Preiss, Common Goal

Cultural forces like sport and football have a great potential to mobilise global collaboration but it's still relatively under-utilised.

The changemaking opportunity in movements like Common Goal is in shifting mindsets and using these voices to reach audiences that traditional politicians don't reach – and they know that. They know that there are solutions required to really speak to the next generation.

We have learned over the years that a lot of the magic is in the co-creation process with the athletes. Every one of these people is also on an educational journey. We and regulators can create pathways for that.



KEEPING THE FAITH

A YEAR OF SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

Since the first days of Russia's invasion, KBF, its Funds, partners, and donors have rallied behind those affected, from refugees to healthcare providers to those working to protect rights and democracy. In the first 12 months alone, KBF distributed some 5.5 million euros to 140 grassroots organisations. Those figures continue to climb as Ukrainians suffer the second summer of this first major war between states in Europe since 1945. [One year on](#), these are some of their stories.



FROM FESTIVALS TO FRONTLINE

Catastrophe can bring to light hidden strengths in unlikely places. [Poland's Folkowisko Foundation](#), based just 20 km from the Ukrainian frontier, had spent over a decade organising folk music festivals across the rural borderlands. When the Russian attack drove millions of Ukrainians westward, Folkowisko's 250 volunteers, with their tents, heaters, fencing, and experience of setting up big events in empty fields, took charge at four Polish crossing points for refugees.

"The situation at the border was very similar to organising a festival," says Folkowisko co-founder Marcin Piotrowski. "When you have thousands of people in one place, you use the same techniques." As word spread, volunteers began arriving from around the world. Two Polish family foundations from Canada and the US mobilised fundraisers and deliveries.

"It was like a miracle," says Piotrowski. "It was amazing how quickly people reacted."

Many hundreds more volunteers arrived, too. Philip Ramos of the New York State Assembly was among those who came with help in March

2022: "We are so impressed," he said. "Just a few months ago, this organisation was in charge of a festival. This is not government run, this is run by the hearts of the Polish people."

Having sent thousands of tonnes of aid to frontline cities, Folkowisko has now created a medical centre and a programme to train trauma counsellors. It is also sending out seeds, so families can grow their own food: "It's important to Ukrainians in small villages that some foreigner is coming to give them support," says Piotrowski. "We are not giving food any more; we are giving hope."

RESTORING LIFE AND LIMB

Oksana Lytvynenko was a renowned specialist in upper limb prosthetics, running her own centre in Kharkiv. That is, until Russian shelling forced her to flee westward with her family. Yet, aware that Ukrainians are more in need of artificial limbs than ever, she has started her practice anew, away from the frontline.

At the Prosthetics Centre Vilni ('vilni' means 'free' in Ukrainian), Lytvynenko wants to re-establish the quality care and rehabilitation offered by experienced specialists – with the aim one day of relocating the facility back to Kharkiv.

Among her supporters has been the [Decathlon International Solidarity Fund](#), financed by the



French sports retailer and managed by KBF. Set up in April 2022, the Decathlon Fund aims to help people facing life-changing crises. It has supported projects in Ukraine and in countries hosting

refugees, with a focus on education, integration, and health. Six smaller projects have so far received a total of 120,000 euros, three larger ones a total of 410,000 euros.

CHARTING A EUROPEAN PATH

Early on 24 February 2022, Svitlana Taran of the Kyiv School of Economics woke to find herself under attack, along with her three million fellow residents of the Ukrainian capital.



It was not the kind of experience that she had expected would influence her distinguished career as one of her country's foremost experts on trade policy and the European Union.

After reaching Latvia by bus, she embarked on a specially created, KBF-supported fellowship at the European Policy Centre in Brussels. There, Taran has brought a wealth of insight, as well as a determination to keep Ukraine high on the EU policy agenda and help make trade sanctions against Russia effective. She is also aiding colleagues back in Kyiv to get Ukraine into shape to open membership talks with the European Union, perhaps by the end of this year.

KBF and the EPC offered the fellowship to Ukrainians committed to evidence-based research, with a view to ensuring the voices of a democratic Ukraine continued to be heard: "Like millions of Ukrainians, I will never forget the day the invasion began," says Taran, who previously advised the government in Kyiv.

"The European integration of Ukraine is my specialty, so seeing European integration from the EU side after working on it in Kyiv is enriching my perspective of Europe and the world. I am proud to share my expertise and to exchange with prominent European experts and practitioners."

TAKING EUROPE'S PULSE

Most EU citizens — 68% — view Russia's invasion of Ukraine as an attack on themselves and support Ukrainians' response, seeing them as defending not just their own country but freedom and prosperity across Europe. According to a [eupinions survey](#) in December 2022, two

in three Europeans considered the world dangerous and less comfortable than in the past, yet those anxieties had little impact on their attitudes to confronting Russia.

Published in cooperation with KBF, eupinions is the Bertelsmann Stiftung's European opinion research tool. It has been tracking EU citizens' sentiment on Ukraine since the war began, finding

substantial cohesiveness within the Union, despite a sense of danger.

"This unity is an important signal," says eupinions head Isabell Hoffmann. "Common values are a cornerstone of the support provided to Ukraine. The longer this war drags on, the more important it is for Ukrainians to know that EU citizens acknowledge their achievements."



HEARING OTHER RUSSIAN VOICES

If Ukrainians have been the main victims of the war, an already grim situation in Russia for independent journalism has been rendered all but impossible since the conflict began. KBF has taken part in projects to uphold media freedoms on both sides of the frontline.

Already working to nurture democracy in Europe through initiatives such as Civitates, which aids the development of civil society, and Pluralis, which invests in quality news outlets, KBF began supporting some Ukrainian media when the war began, as well as a resource centre for independent journalists in Lviv.

In Russia, with broadcast and publication channels closed down and journalists facing jail for questioning the Kremlin line, hundreds of reporters and editors



have fled abroad. The KBF-supported [European Fund for Journalism in Exile – the JX Fund](#) – was established in April 2022 as a clearing hub for media groups and freelancers to seek help in setting up operations in other countries.

Often with established audiences, previously sustainable businesses, and courageous

colleagues still on the ground, the JX Fund is supporting Russian media – as well as exiled journalists from Moscow's close ally Belarus – to find operating models that can provide the facts and facilitate the kind of free debate which will be vital to underpin open societies in the future.

EU STAFFERS' SOLIDARITY



Among KBF-managed Funds to step up following the Russian assault on its neighbour was the EU Staff Fund for a Fair and Sustainable Future. Originally set up during the Covid-19 pandemic as a way for public servants working in the EU institutions to show their personal solidarity with fellow Europeans in need, the Fund swiftly established a dedicated facility for Ukraine, where the war has fueled popular demands for EU membership.

European Commission official Bruno Mola, from the EU Staff for Climate collective which established the Fund, said: "This

support reflects a deep motivation among people working in the institutions to show solidarity with their fellow Europeans and a wish to show that they care in a very practical, personal way."

Initially focused on shelter, food, and medical aid for people fleeing the fighting, especially into EU member states bordering Ukraine, later donations among the two dozen grants worth some 500,000 euros over the first year have also featured support for less visible victims, such as Ukrainians whose cancer treatments are being disrupted by the conflict.

KOSMOTIVE: IMPROVING GIRLS' AND WOMEN'S HEALTH IN RWANDA



In Rwanda, 18% of women and girls miss work or school because they cannot afford hygiene products during their period. Blandine Umuzranenge decided to tackle the health and economic blight that is period poverty with her [Kosmopads project](#), to produce eco-friendly, reusable, and hygienic sanitary pads and make them available to all Rwandan women. The project, launched in 2019, is part of Kosmotive, a social enterprise that Umuzranenge began in 2014 with a magazine. It aims to improve reproductive, maternal, and child health, in Rwanda and across Africa. A 200,000-euro grant from the Belgian government's Business Partnership Facility (BPF), managed by KBF, will help achieve a target by the end of 2023 of employing 100 young women in producing menstrual hygiene kits.

FUNDING SEEDS GROWTH FOR BENIN ORGANICS

Following a 200,000-euro grant last year from Belgium's Business Partnership Facility – a collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs managed by KBF – a business building organic agriculture in Benin has tapped into further financial resources to fund its growth in the form of a subordinated loan from the social impact investment fund Kampani, which was co-founded by KBF.

[BioPhyto](#) will use the proceeds for capital investment in equipment for its production of organic fertilisers and pesticides. Its locally sourced and processed products are meeting a growing demand from a market looking for alternatives to man-made chemical inputs in farming. Now with 52 employees, BioPhyto also works with over 2,000 smallholders, mainly women, who supply it with raw materials.



BRINGING BACK LIFE TO A RAVAGED LAND



As a photographer Sebastião Salgado has dedicated his life to documenting the effects of industrialisation and environmental degradation on people all over the world. So, naturally, when he saw how intensive cattle breeding was razing forests and turning his native valley in Brazil to barren scorched earth, he could not stand by. To restore the Rio Doce Valley in Minas Gerais state, he founded the Instituto Terra together with his work and life partner, Lélia Deluiz Wanick. For a quarter of a century it has invested in projects for reforestation and water resource conservation, applied scientific research, and environmental education. To help with fundraising in Europe, they have now created the [Instituto Terra Fund](#), set up in 2020 and managed by KBF.



BIKES IN BRUSSELS: LOCK 'EM UP!

Why take the bike to work or school if you risk having it stolen or damaged when you're there? Acutely aware of this dilemma, which discourages many people from using this sustainable way of getting quickly around the Belgian capital, the KBF-managed [Bikes in Brussels Fund](#) is financing better cycling infrastructure in nine of the city's 19 communes. Of 15 new projects, 12 involve town halls, schools, or NGOs creating bicycle parking facilities. Since its inception in 2018, the Bikes in Brussels Fund has supported 90 projects for a total of 6 million euros.

BIG DATA FOR THE COMMON GOOD

The growth of large stocks of data on so much that happens in the world and in the daily lives of citizens is generating unease and a focus for many on how to avoid the abuse of such data. Yet big data sets also have the potential to help solve an array of challenges facing the planet, from climate change to economic injustice.

Enter the [Data Tank](https://datatank.org) (datatank.org), supported by KBF among its founding funders, with a mission to both propose ways to make the most of data for the common good, and also to put into practice some of those ideas. Its role is to be a think-and-do tank.

"While many organisations are focused on preventing the misuse of data, the Data Tank is equally concerned with missed uses – areas where a system of responsible data access would allow siloed data to be used or re-used in a way that leads to lasting public benefit," Stefaan Verhulst, its co-founder and principal scientific advisor, told a launch event in Brussels in March.





INTERVIEW: LUKAS DHONT

BUILDING A HOME FOR ALL IN FORBIDDEN COLOURS

That Lukas Dhont is a voice the world listens to was confirmed by an Oscar nomination this year for his second feature, *Close*. With his intimate tales of growing up and gender identity, whose universal themes connect with global audiences, the 32-year-old Belgian director can let his films do his talking. Yet he finds time, too, to speak out for *Forbidden Colours* in its KBF-supported mission to promote human rights for LGBTIQ+ people across Europe.

What drew you to *Forbidden Colours*, the KBF-managed Fund?

"What is really beautiful is that it's trying to be a home for all these initiatives around the world that are trying to protect, to protest, to harbour, to energise initiatives around LGBTQIA+ rights. It was created by people who feel very lucky to be in a country that, although it still reminds us sometimes of the homophobia

that exists, is a safe space. These people have decided to make bridges to those people who don't feel as safe, who feel like they want to achieve this idea that we should all be considered equal, whomever we love, wherever we come from, whatever our gender is or feels like. And that is the beauty to me and the absolute reason why I agreed to be a part of it."

Is there a common thread between your art and your involvement with the political engagement of *Forbidden Colours*?

"While I was promoting *Close*, there was a point where I dared to say 'this is political'. Before, I just said I wanted to show people to people, in the most tender way, in the hope that it would make you look at them differently. I have this strong belief that many



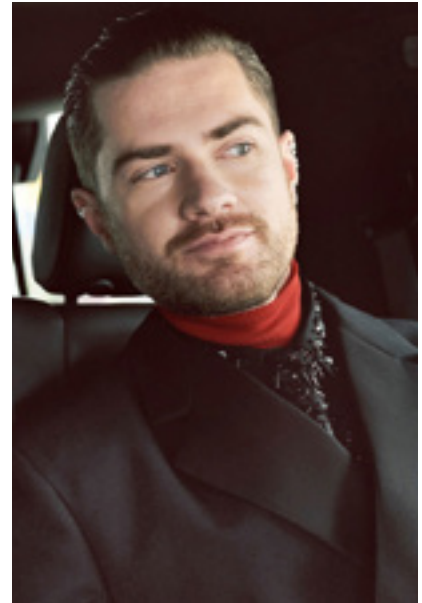
of us share experiences, growing up, losing friendships, struggling with how we feel, who we want to be, how we want to fit in. I've always had this primal desire to use these pieces as a way of connecting people. I think it stems from this feeling that when I was younger, I felt very disconnected. These themes of norms around gender and sexuality have defined so many of us, not only LGBTQIA+ people. What I see with Forbidden Colours is this same desire to make sure that we can achieve this space where people are not excluded, where it's not 'us against them' but 'what connects us to them'? And as a filmmaker, I consider that film – through the tender, through the soft, through the personal – can have this power of politics as well."

Your films have opened doors for you around the world. On your travels, do you see a world that's clearly opening up to equality?

"I see so many young energies, who are so open about themselves, in a much freer way, where the boundaries between the strict cases of what you should be are changing rapidly, and that excites me. But in reaction to that you also see movements which fear that. Unfortunately, history teaches us that we must be constantly aware, to protect the rights and the safety of people who have in the past been othered."

Is there one Forbidden Colours project that you feel particularly close to?

"I feel like choosing among my children! But I'm incredibly moved by the Queer Refugee Committee. They shelter people who have had to flee their countries and start over again. And this idea of healing together, this idea of finding family later in life, deeply moves me. To come from a place that is so hostile towards you and keep this joy and desire for life, to take that violence and not turn it into anger but into something that you can grow from and that can create art, I think that's really extraordinary."



I think softness as a possibility is something that really is important to me, so I'm really happy that Forbidden Colours exists and can mean something somehow to someone."

FORBIDDEN COLOURS

Forbidden Colours is a Fund hosted by KBF since 2020. It supports organisations and projects that help LGBTQIA+ people live their lives fully, in freedom, with self-respect, and dignity. forbidden-colours.com



QUAKE HEARD AROUND THE WORLD

When a tremor of historic proportions struck southeastern Turkey and northern Syria in the chill early hours of 6 February, it killed tens of thousands in their beds and left over a million homeless; KBF and its partners in the Myriad alliance immediately rallied help and funding from around the world.

For Myriad partner Give2Asia, it was a moment to mobilise its new DisasterLink platform (see Newsletter, Winter 2022), rushing aid to already trusted local partners on the ground. Online giving facilities at Give2Asia offered tax deductible conditions for donors in the United States, Australia, and Hong Kong, while in Europe, KBF set up a Giving Circle also to channel funds to Turkey and Syria.

More than 50,000 people living in the region straddling the Turkey-Syria border were killed, including refugees from Syria's civil war, and an estimated 1.5 million have lost homes, leaving hundreds of thousands in tents and other temporary accommodation. Immediately, local partners were in action on the ground, rescuing those trapped, tending to the injured, and recovering the dead, while urgently assessing structural damage to buildings that could continue to function. Basic supplies, such as water, heating, power, babycare kits, thermal clothing, shelters, and tents, were all secured and rushed into place.



As the situation has evolved, other, longer-term needs, such as education and non-emergency healthcare, are among priorities for those being assisted by Myriad donors. Funds and donors working through KBF in Europe have so far channeled some 1.30 million euros to victims, including 1.16 million from the Decathlon International Solidarity Fund.

DISASTERLINK IN ACTION

Give2Asia's DisasterLink builds on the California-based Myriad partner's expertise in disaster funding, its longstanding focus on preparing for crises, a network for sharing knowledge and experience, and a flexible approach that gets aid quickly to locals best placed to use it well.

It operates through a curated network of trusted response and recovery organisations, in which donors can have full confidence in their capacity to use it effectively.

Deeply embedded in their communities, these local partners address emergency needs before, during, and after events. Give2Asia's donors and supporters provided grants worth more than 350,000 US dollars to six local partners, some of whom have also been aided by the KBF Giving Circle, which raised 100,000 euros.

TRUSTED LOCAL PARTNERS

Among those local organisations helped by donors through Myriad were:

- **INTERNATIONAL BLUE CRESCENT RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION**

IBC's first actions were to distribute shelter and food supplies. Help from DisasterLink allowed IBC to provide essential aid for at least 3,000 babies and children in Turkey's Hatay province for a month, and some of the 15,000 Syrian refugees living in the Nurdağı district of Gaziantep province.

- **HAYATA DESTEK DERNEĞİ (SUPPORT TO LIFE)**

STL supported evacuations and provided relief to survivors. With DisasterLink support, STL provided clean water to 4,000 survivors for up to six weeks and distributed tents to 200 families in Turkey's Hatay province.

- **İHTİYAÇ HARİTASI/NEEDS MAP**

With support through DisasterLink, Needs Map provided 600 food packages over three months and set up a community centre, with computer room, library, sports hall, kitchen, and other amenities for 2,000 people in Hatay province.

- **AHBAP**

As well as essential supplies, AHBAP created a free online map to help survivors find facilities offering support. Aided by DisasterLink, it set up communal homes made from converted shipping containers, especially for women with children.

- **LÖSEV**

The Health and Education Foundation for Children with Leukemia moved swiftly after the quake to help its 7,000 existing patients in the affected provinces. LÖSEV trucks delivered emergency supplies to those patients and the organisation and is now moving to provide broader support to cancer patients among the survivors as part of longer-term projects.

- **TEGV**

The Educational Volunteers Foundation of Turkey provides free educational support to children. After the quake, it also provided psychosocial counselling and despatched 15 "Firefly" teaching trucks. Give2Asia helps TEGV offer children activities including art therapy and learning about sustainability, with a focus on 1,200 children in three tent cities.



As the long process of clearing the ruins and rebuilding gets under way, help is still urgently needed in Turkey and Syria. Donations can be made at <https://give2asia.org/turkey-syria-quake2023/> and <https://donate.kbs-frb.be/GC-Earthquake/~my-donation>

HELPING CONGO CATCH THE DIGITAL BUS

In the southeast of the Democratic Republic of Congo, unreliable internet, power cuts, and slow government are all obstacles for IT training company Itot Africa. Yet its dedicated young team are racking up successes in helping fellow Congolese learn 21st-century career skills.

Back in 2017, Samy Mwamba and his friends were final-year software engineering students at Lubumbashi University. With some apprehension, they noticed that many who had graduated before them were not finding work – despite a world hungry for IT talent.

The friends took their future into their own hands and founded Itot Africa. An initial effort to distribute apps and ideas with universities and governments produced little result. Then they spotted a Facebook ad from a Canadian company looking for IT staff to work remotely from French-speaking Africa.

Impressed with Itot Africa's help, the Canadians asked them to create a training course to attract more staff. "And with that," says Mwamba, "We had our mission: preparing people for digital jobs in Africa."

[Itot Africa](#) has continued to grow, with support from the Thibault Fund and the New Generation DRC Fund managed by KBF. "We've evolved into a training academy for anyone who wants to learn digital skills," says Mwamba. "Until Covid-19 hit, we had mainly focused on advanced digital skills, but during the Covid-19 crisis we noticed that even some lawyers did not know how to send a simple email or make a video call."



That has led to a broader range of courses. The pandemic also accelerated work on online learning, with the firm developing the first such platform in French for sub-Saharan Africa, and more programmes are still being added. Itot Africa are helping women grow small businesses with digital tools, teaching youngsters skills they can use as freelance IT workers, and showing farmers how to analyse weather data to improve crop yields.

The firm would like to pick up the pace – though it's not helped by the continued weakness of internet and electricity networks in the region. Despite those challenges, and supported by KBF, Itot Africa has so far trained more than a thousand people in person since 2019. A further 4,000 are taking its lessons online. And graduates of Itot Africa's programmes are taking up jobs and setting themselves up as independent IT professionals.



KEEPING KIDS WELL WITH INTERACTIVE TECH

More than 1.2 million euros in funding from the [Sofina Covid Solidarity Fund](#), managed by KBF, will go a long way to providing children in several countries with TrustCircle, a platform that can identify mental health problems early.

When Sachin Chaudhry was a teenager in northern India, his 12-year-old brother – bullied at school – had an emotional breakdown. He was referred to a psychiatrist. “After a three-hour wait, we got three minutes, during which he was diagnosed with a mental disorder,” says Chaudhry.

Later, when Sachin himself slipped “into a black hole”, he started to wonder why early warning signs of what had happened to him and his brother were so often missed.

Chaudhry would go on to become an IT specialist and move to the US. But those questions continued to haunt him. In 2015, he quit his job and founded TrustCircle, an AI-enhanced social-emotional learning (SEL) platform. “I wanted to turn my pain and passion into purpose, and that purpose is to foster prevention and early intervention of mental health issues,” he says.



Things have moved very quickly for TrustCircle, and for one simple reason, says Chaudhry: “It is an interactive platform that can identify individuals at risk, and help us understand where that risk is coming from.”

SEL is an educational approach that incorporates social and emotional skills into the school curriculum. Children aged 7 and above can click on an emoji every day in the TrustCircle app to indicate how they are feeling. It also features a journaling section and coaching on mindfulness, as well as a system of rewards and recognition.

TrustCircle’s AI technology recognises patterns that indicate whether a child may be at risk. If so, the platform alerts a designated responsible person. There is also an SOS button where kids can call for help directly.

Chaudhry’s home country has been particularly responsive to the benefits offered by TrustCircle. Unicef India in partnership with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is starting a pilot project in 100 colleges in the state of Maharashtra. But the ultimate goal is much bigger: the program will eventually be rolled out across three states, targeting 1.2 million young people and training 30,000 community healthcare workers and volunteers so they can recognize and respond to mental health problems.

“Sound mental health is fundamental to children and young people’s development,” say Soledad Herrero, chief of Unicef India’s child protection unit, and Dhuwarakha Sriram, the head of Unicef’s Yuwaah Generation Unlimited program in Delhi, in a joint statement. “It is necessary to build their capacity to cope with challenges while maintaining emotional wellbeing as they grow up to reach their



full potential. TrustCircle’s AI-powered Social Emotional Learning platform is designed to empower young people at scale. We will continue to nurture our partnership and scale impact for the wellbeing of young people.”

Youth involved with Yuwaah who offer peer-to-peer guidance were given the chance to explore the platform before the roll-out. “This is such a wonderful platform,” a secondary school student and youth advisor with Yuwaah said in her feedback. “As a high school student myself, I can see why this is so important. I’ve seen people my age being troubled by so many different things.”

An interesting point made by this Yuwaah advisor is that there are “so many things about the platform that we didn’t know we needed, but then you see it, and you’re like, OK, yes, this could be really helpful.”

Embraced by the United Nations, TrustCircle will be empowering 1.3 million children and has been selected as one of the best innovations across G20 countries. TrustCircle innovation was showcased to the world leaders and the G20 delegates in Delhi at the G20 summit.

The [Sofina Covid Solidarity Fund](#) benefits organisations helping young people facing mental and social difficulties in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic in Western Europe, India, and Singapore.

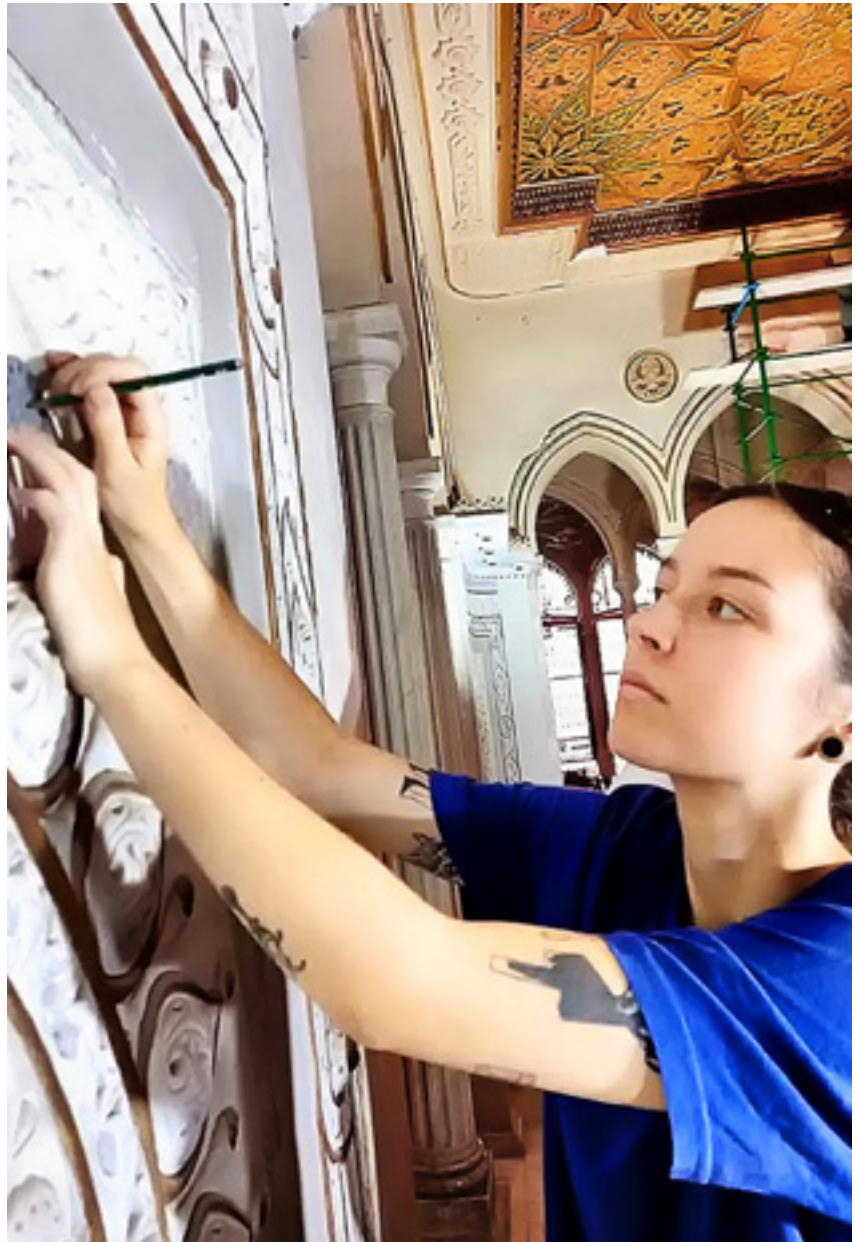
RESTORING BEIRUT TO ITS FORMER GLORY

When a chemical explosion devastated the Lebanese capital in August 2020, it destroyed homes, businesses, and urban infrastructure. But it also severely damaged cultural and architectural heritage, the focus of restoration activities by the [Fund RestART Beirut](#), managed by KBF.

Marie Eve Didier visited for the first time in 2018 and “fell in love with” Lebanon, she says. So the blast at the port of Beirut that was felt across the country left Didier shaken on a deeply personal level. Not only did the explosion destroy homes and businesses already struggling in an unstable economy – not to mention Covid-19 – it also damaged cultural treasures and fine buildings.

Didier, however, was well placed to help. She is the co-founder and CEO of MATIS, a developer of imaging technology for the analysis of artworks, based in the Swiss town of Neuchâtel. With colleagues in Beirut, London, Paris, and Luxembourg, she swiftly founded the Fund RestART Beirut.

“Our mission is not to rebuild something and then leave,” says Didier.



“It’s to help build a structural transfer of knowledge, so that restoration can be sustainable. We help to bring missing expertise from abroad, if necessary, and an academic exchange that can help build something long term.”

Sursock Palace

Didier says that the skills and experience to carry out conservation of art and architecture are present in Lebanon, but that harnessing these skills and applying them where needed is a challenge.

"There are extremely good artisans and craftspeople, and our idea is to try to make it last, this know-how and expertise," she says. "We are trying to establish a system where, if damage like this happens, they don't need us. They will have a structure in place to be able to take care of it."

RestART Beirut has arranged academic exchanges, workshops, and a scholarship programme, and has also convinced experts in architectural restoration to travel to Beirut to assess the damage. The first major project is the Sursock Palace. Built in the mid-19th century by the Sursock family of wealthy industrialists, it is one of Beirut's most famous landmarks. Still owned by the family, it is a protected monument, home to a priceless art collection and period furnishings.

The explosion knocked massive holes in the roof, shattered the windows – the shards of which ripped into paintings – and badly damaged marble and stucco features, inside and outside the building. Interior architectural elements and artworks came tumbling down, and furnishings thrown across rooms were damaged or destroyed.

"Our mission is not to rebuild something and then leave. It's to help build a structural transfer of knowledge, so that restoration can be sustainable."

RestART Beirut co-founder
Marie Eve Didier

Out of shambles, hope
"Everything is in shambles," says Didier. "The architectural

elements date from the Ottoman Empire, and they're all damaged. Everywhere you look, nothing has gone untouched."

The palace is now the focus of RestART Beirut's work, and several improvements have already been carried out through cooperation among European and Lebanese assessors and conservators. Last year, a summer school saw several Swiss students of restoration practice spend six weeks in Beirut, working with local students there to restore stucco elements.

RestART Beirut has also arranged a partnership between Unesco and the Federal Office of Culture in Switzerland to stabilise the entire north facade of the Sursock Palace. Once restored to its glory, the palace will house a cultural centre.

LINKING PAST AND PRESENT

Elise El Rassi, who participated in the 2022 summer school, has been working as an interior architect for some 20 years. When the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK), just north of Beirut, launched a bachelors programme in Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage – the first of its kind in the Middle East – El Rassi signed up. She is now in her third year.

"My country has such beautiful heritage in need of conservation," she says. "It has witnessed so much war and,

of course, the blast in the port of Beirut. Ensuring the preservation and conservation of historical sites is so important in maintaining the link between the past and the present and preserving the cultural identity of communities. The culture and heritage inherited from our ancestors are the hallmarks of our people."

El Rassi already had a great deal of experience in graphic documentation using an AutoCAD, so her work in the Sursock Palace aided in

presenting a final report on the project: "The palace needs so much work to be restored to its original splendour," she says. "It was an honour to represent my university and, on a personal level, to contribute to this project. Small acts can make a big difference!"



KBF AFRICA PRIZE WINNERS SCALE UP SUCCESS

The [King Baudouin Foundation's Africa Prize](#) supports organisations that are helping to transform the continent and sustainably improve the lives of its people. They do so not through one-off projects, but by fostering a long-term vision to grow and expand their impact as these recent milestones show for three past laureates which are scaling up their operations.

FARMERLINE

Farmerline of Ghana, now a leading agritech business in Africa, has just expanded from English-speaking into francophone countries, with an official launch of operations in Cote d'Ivoire.



WECYCLERS

Wecyclers, a Nigerian startup that collects and recycles household waste in Lagos, signed a 2-million dollar funding agreement with international investors to scale up its operations, create jobs, and consolidate plastics recycling.



BAREFOOTLAW

BarefootLaw in Uganda, which aims to make legal aid accessible, including online, opened an office at The Hague Humanity Hub in the Netherlands, allowing them to expand their international network.



A MILLION EUROS FOR ALS RESEARCH

The annual [Generet Award for Rare Diseases](#) was awarded to Ludo Van Den Bosch for his research into the underlying mechanisms of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a neurodegenerative disease affecting the nerve cells that make movement possible. People with ALS gradually lose control of their muscles until they are completely paralysed.

Van Den Bosch studies the underlying mechanisms of this fatal disease at the Laboratory for Neurobiology at KU Leuven/VIB, Belgium's leading centre for the study of ALS. He discovered that by selectively inhibiting a certain enzyme it was possible to restore ALS-disrupted transmission processes that connect cells in the spinal cord to the muscles.

The million-euro prize, awarded by the Generet Fund, managed by KBF, aims to underpin Belgium's place as a leading world centre for research into rare diseases.



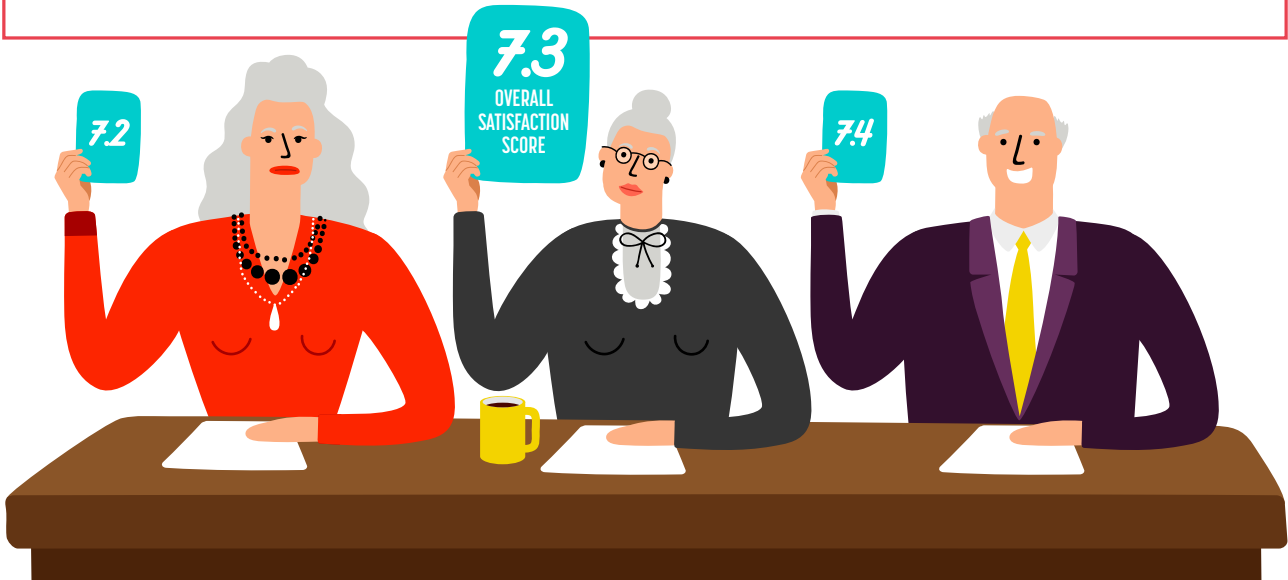
UBORA PRIZE BACKS EXCELLENCE IN DRC

Excellence is the watchword of the new [Ubora Prize](#) for entrepreneurs in the Democratic Republic of Congo – indeed, “ubora” means just that, “excellence” in Swahili. The 98,000-euro, biennial award fund has been launched by KBF in partnership with BIO, the Belgian investment fund for sustainable private enterprise in developing countries.

The Ubora Prizes will place a special emphasis on Congolese businesses taking a strong approach to responsible corporate action – notably their environmental, social, and governance (ESG) policies. The competition is open to firms that have been part of the DRC's World Bank-backed PADMPME programme for small business development in Kinshasa, Goma, Lubumbashi, and Matadi, with juries organised by the local startup incubators I&F Entrepreneariat and Kivu Entrepreneurs.

Prizegiving ceremonies will be held later this year in Kinshasa, for winners in the west of the country, and at Goma for those in the east.

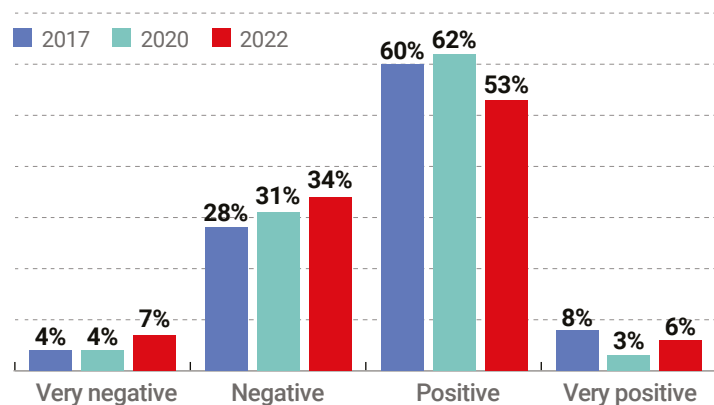
60+: STRONGER SOCIAL TIES MAKE FOR HAPPIER SENIORS



People over 60 who are healthier, richer, and have stronger social networks are more confident about the future. However, a [survey](#) into their life choices by KBF has found that this confidence has diminished in recent years.

In late 2022, Indiville conducted a survey on ageing among 2,400 over-60s in Belgium who do not require care or help around the home. Are they happy? How are they preparing for the future? What kinds of housing would they prefer when they do need more care and help, and how do they feel about this? How robust are their social networks? Barometer surveys had been conducted by the King Baudouin Foundation in 2017 and 2020 about the life choices of the over-60s. In the latest survey, foreign residents were also polled.

ATTITUDE TOWARDS GROWING OLDER



NON-BELGIANS EXPECT MORE OF THEIR CHILDREN

In this group, which accounts for nearly 13% of Belgium's population, the fear of needing help is 89% higher than it is among Belgians. They are more confident than Belgians that they will receive adequate help if they do need it – 83% expect this, as compared to 47% of Belgians. They mainly rely on their children for this: 90% of non-Belgians consider it a moral duty for children to care for their parents, while 50% of Belgians hold the same view.

HOME: I'M STAYING PUT

Most over-60s would prefer to stay in their own home and neighbourhood, even if it is not suitable or energy efficient. Three in four respondents say that their home is not adapted for increasing care needs. Nevertheless, only 17% of them are expecting to renovate their homes after retirement. The respondents want to live independently for as long as possible with various forms of help.

In comparison with previous barometer surveys, more over-60s are aware of new forms of housing. Their primary focus, however, is on care homes, either as a welcome alternative or as a last resort. The more people the respondents know who live in care homes, the more positive the image they have of them.

Nevertheless, almost half say they have no idea what life in a care home is like. They fear a loss of independence, reduced privacy, and loss of contact with others. The older people are, the less negative their attitudes.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Combat loneliness: People who feel lonely have a more negative view of the future. They are less well prepared, partly because in many cases they have more financial difficulties. People with stronger social networks are slightly more inclined to prepare for the future.

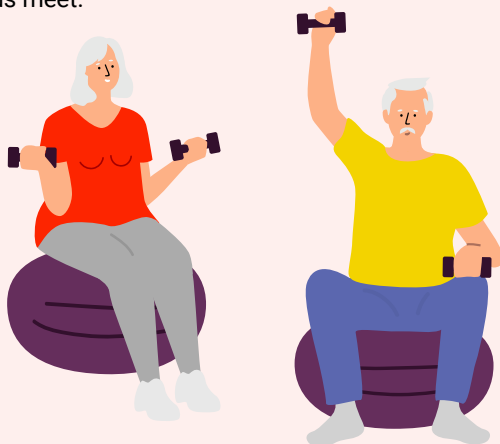
Promoting social networks, including through voluntary work, has positive effects for over-60s in many ways: volunteers have more sense of personal worth and feel more connected.

Raising awareness: Familiarising people with specific issues is one way of influencing the way they view things. This is true in areas like family carers, alternative housing types, neighbourhood networks, and caring neighbourhoods.

THREE KEYS TO A HAPPY LIFE AFTER 60

Financial security

The better people think they will be able to make ends meet, the more confident they are. Nevertheless, this does not lead most over-60s to make a financial plan for the future; only one in five does that. The lower their level of education, the less prepared they are, and 30% say they will have difficulty making ends meet.



A robust social network

Strong social networks are the best antidote to fears about the future. A third of respondents are active in an association or neighbourhood initiative. However, one in five respondents says they have no one with whom they can share their worries.

Good health

Anxiety about failing health is linked to the fear of a loss of independence, particularly among older age groups. The lower the health risks, the less afraid the respondents are. Women worry about health more than men, and 45% of respondents are concerned about the affordability of medical care.



TELLING TALES: ART NOUVEAU AT 130

Throughout 2023, Brussels is celebrating the 130th anniversary of the movement to which it gave birth. The King Baudouin Foundation has long acquired major works through its [Heritage Fund](#) and the generosity of its patrons, ensuring that ‘the new art’ lives on for future generations. It is showcasing these treasures in an exhibition entitled [‘ART NOUVEAU. Unique objects with a tale to tell’](#) at the KBF-managed BELvue museum.



TÊTE-À-TÊTES BEHIND FOLDING SCREENS

At the turn of the 20th century, luxury, Parisian-inspired restaurants like the one at Brussels' Grand Hotel could get very busy. Yet some diners also wanted privacy when savouring the chic surroundings and gourmet cuisine. Mahogany folding screens on castors were specially designed by Paul Hankar, as a way of creating intimacy for their tête-à-têtes. The Grand Hotel on boulevard Anspach was demolished in 1973, but the screens were purchased by KBF in 2004 and entrusted to the Design Museum in Ghent.

SWAYING PALM TREES UNDER HORTA'S FEET

When Victor Horta was designing and furnishing a country house for an industrialist at Ronse in East Flanders in 1899, he called in decorators who included carpet maker Alfred Demolder of the Manufacture Royale de Tapis in nearby Tournai. So impressed was Horta by Demolder's craftsmanship that he recommended one of the rugs for the 1902 international exhibition of Art Nouveau at Turin. Three years later, he had Demolder recreate that carpet, featuring a palm tree motif of Horta's design, for the drawing room of his own home in Brussels. KBF bought the rug in 1996 and entrusted it to the museum which preserves Horta's house on rue Américaine.



SOPHIE'S JEWELS: A WIFE'S TRIBUTE

It is hard to think of a more touching tribute to the genius of silversmith Philippe Wolfers than his wife's wearing his 'Swan and Snakes' pendant for this portrait. Sophie Willstädter thought long and hard over her choice of jewellery when she sat for post-Impressionist Firmin Baes in this 1903 portrait. By far her husband's best customer, she was spoilt for choice and Philippe Wolfers had more reason than that to be grateful, for it was her bridal dowry that financed the expansion of the Wolfers brothers' business in Brussels. The Baes painting is among the pieces that the Wolfers family held on to as cherished personal items. KBF's Heritage Fund bought them in 2017, together with the Christian Bauwens Fund, the Fund Braet-Buys-Bartholomus, and the Fund Marcel Van Rooy. The Wolfers Collection was then entrusted to Brussels' Art & History Museum.



FURNISHING A NEW START AFTER DIVORCE

Horta's gruelling court battle to divorce his first wife Pauline Heyse in 1906 left him exhausted. As his house in the rue Américaine reminded him too much of her, he rented it out and only moved back in after overseeing an extensive makeover. Horta notably added a terrace overlooking the garden and a conservatory for his daughter Simone. For the latter room, he designed this small, three-legged table made of fossilised wood in a bronze frame. Acquired by KBF in 2020 thanks to the Charles Vreeken Fund, it is kept at the Horta Museum.

CREATORS AND THE TIES THAT BOUND THEM

Architects, decorators, silversmiths, jewellery designers, illustrators, painters, engravers... all were part of the Art Nouveau movement, which aimed to give its public an immersive experience. Each element of an Art Nouveau interior, first seen in Victor Horta's 1893 Tassel House off Brussels' avenue Louise, was custom designed to harmonise with the building and its occupants.

Art Nouveau artists rubbed shoulders at major national and international exhibitions and salons. They were neighbours and colleagues, mixed in the same circles, and even married into each other's families, forging unbreakable bonds in their collective drive to create and innovate.

BELvue's ['ART NOUVEAU. Unique objects with a tale to tell'](#) draws together remarkable pieces from museums across Belgium to showcase the movement 'at home' in Brussels. A book of the same name, available in French and Dutch, highlights some 30 objects and their stories. The free exhibition runs until 7 January 2024.

BREATHING LIFE INTO BOSNIA: UNIVERSITY FIRES PHYSICS RENAISSANCE

The Offermann family – father, mother, and son – have a tradition of sharing their resources internationally. One focus for them has been Sarajevo. Having rebuilt the war-scarred Bosnian capital's historic cable car, this American family of physicists is now funding another remarkable renaissance, at Sarajevo University.

The Offermanns, Dutch-born Eddy and his wife Maja Serdarević, were frequent visitors to Maja's family in her native Sarajevo before fighting tore Yugoslavia apart in the 1990s. When they returned, they found a city in ruins. The famous cable car they had ridden to the Winter Olympic venue on Mount Trebević was no more. Working closely with the city council and with KBFUS, they restored the cable car – and a sense of civic pride and cohesion.

Theory into practice

Looking for new opportunities to make a difference, the Offermann family have turned to the physics department at Sarajevo University.

It has a family logic. It's where Maja Serdarević graduated before going on to the University of Illinois, where she met Eddy Offermann. Now, with son Jan, a doctoral student in physics, they have formed the Three Physicists Foundation, which is working to equip the Bosnian campus with up-to-date practical and experimental apparatus.

"When I studied there, they had a very strong department of Theoretical Physics," says Maja Serdarević. "But even in 1982 the equipment for Experimental Physics was outdated."



Myriad, the alliance for borderless giving, is a partnership between KBF, Give2Asia, and their global affiliates. The alliance removes logistical and compliance barriers for donors. With Myriad, donors on four continents can support charities around the globe, with the same services and fees – and with local tax benefits.

It was from the 1950s and it was then damaged during the Bosnian war.

The Offermanns determined to change that by helping Sarajevo University offer advanced experimental facilities and collaborate with CERN, the European nuclear research centre in Switzerland where Jan was studying. “We decided to invest so that the university could establish an ion source in conjunction with researchers at CERN,” says Eddy Offermann. Among other things, such equipment can help produce heavy ions being used in new forms of radiation therapy for cancer, unavailable in the Balkans.

A regional solution

The family designed a Plan A and a Plan B. Plan A is that Balkan countries will cooperate in using Sarajevo University’s new ion source and jointly build an accelerator to use those ions to produce radioactive isotopes that could treat cancer patients across the Balkans. However, should international cooperation prove elusive in a region where cross-border tensions remain high, there is a fallback option.

“In this case, Plan B would continue the engagement with researchers at CERN to create radioactive isotopes,” explains Eddy Offermann, as his wife adds: “Plan B entails establishing a facility at the University of Sarajevo to create and sell isotopes.”



Lifting spirits

The Offermann family also agreed to refurbish the premises. “Working with the Offermanns was a transformative experience,” says Professor Elvedin Hasović. “We share the same values, dreams, and passion towards the beauty of physics ... For the first time in our history, we can organise a doctoral study programme in experimental physics. We dream with the Offermanns of reversing the ‘brain drain’ into a ‘brain gain’, which is of crucial importance for the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina.”

“We dream with the Offermanns of reversing the ‘brain drain’ into a ‘brain gain.’”

Elvedin Hasović,
Sarajevo University

Simplifying the process

Giving to a university in Bosnia has its complications. Every piece of equipment would have to go through a competitive tender process.

KBFUS had a solution. They reached out to a local Foundation partner in Bosnia and invited them to form an American Friends Fund at KBFUS.

Eddy Offermann explains: “This way, we could give tax-deductible donations to KBFUS, and their partner in Bosnia could purchase and deliver the specified equipment directly to the department. KBFUS resources and connections made the donation process easy for us.”

The King Baudouin Foundation United States (KBFUS) facilitates thoughtful, effective giving across borders — it is a trusted adviser for US donors seeking to support their favourite causes and non-profits overseas.



KING BAUDOUIN
FOUNDATION
UNITED STATES

To learn more about our donor-advised funds, legacy funds and KBFUS ART, please visit kbfus.org. Or contact us at (212) 713-7660 or info@kbfus.org.

CONNECTING COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

NEW PERFORMANCE VENUE FOR SARASOTA

Thanks to a very generous donor working with KBF CANADA, a new performing arts centre will open its doors, offering the people of this Florida city extraordinary cultural and educational experiences that can open a world of new possibilities.



"The vision of how it would be transformational to the community really drew me to this project," says Paul Seed, the Canadian who initiated the establishment of a 10-million US dollar Fund at KBF CANADA to support the architect and design team in conceiving a venue that will serve future

generations. "The organisation is passionate about arts education and the difference it makes."

A city rooted in the arts

When Seed took up seasonal residence in Sarasota, he was immediately taken by its vibrant arts scene. For the past century,

Sarasota has been a prominent destination for culture on the US Gulf Coast. Its Van Wezel Hall is a landmark venue offering world-class music, dance, and theatre. It also anchors Sarasota's cultural and tourism economy. However, the Hall is environmentally endangered,



NEWS FROM OUR MYRIAD PARTNERS

as it sits in a high-risk flood zone and is already suffering severe salt damage. The highly vulnerable structure, built in 1970, cannot be renovated for sustainability in compliance with federal regulations while serving as a state-of-the-art performing arts centre. With a view to boosting its economic and cultural vitality, the City of Sarasota is partnering with the private sector to lead the community into a new era.

A new community vision

The Sarasota Performing Arts Center Foundation is a non-profit entity charged with creating and operating a contemporary performing arts centre which will enrich and inspire diverse audiences. The projected 275-million dollar venue is part of a plan to reimagine Sarasota's 21-hectare bayfront. This includes revitalising mangroves and wetlands and creating a public park. The Foundation's strategic plan has been shaped by survey responses from over 18,000 people. The polling clearly showed that Sarasota's residents value the role of the performing arts in supporting economic development and providing cultural learning opportunities. At the heart of the Foundation's mission is exposing young people to arts education and lowering barriers for families to access performances. The new centre will expand these opportunities with the help of technology.

"We're going to have the ability to simulcast what's happening inside to the park outside, so families can enjoy the ballet or a Broadway show," says Foundation chairman Jim Travers. "It's absolutely our vision for this to be a community asset. We are also looking to extend our mission and partner with other non-profits to help people struggling with mental health to connect with the arts."

"The organisation is passionate about arts education and the difference it makes."

Paul Seed

Design for sustainable future

The Paul Seed Fund at KBF CANADA will support and underwrite the architects and design team to create the design concept and schematic design for the new centre. A community-based architect selection task force is leading a public procurement process to select a world-renowned design architect.

The new venue will be environmentally sustainable, resilient, and designed to meet a future rise in sea levels. It promises to become a valuable cultural icon for the greater Gulf Coast and serve as a hub for creativity, learning, and innovation.



Says Travers: "This is a once-in-a generation opportunity to do something very significant and create a vital gateway connecting community and culture."



- KBF CANADA is a registered charitable organisation in Canada.
- It works with individuals, families, corporations, and foundations to enable donors to support charitable activities outside Canada.
- KBF CANADA crafts personalised solutions for one-time gifts or recurring donations through donor-advised funds.

kbfcanada.ca -
Benoit@kbfcanada.ca -
 (1)514 481 2000

HEROIC LEGACY

STANDING BY THE CHILDREN OF FALLEN FRONTLINE WORKERS

Their mother or father gave their life caring for others through the Covid-19 pandemic, providing healthcare or other vital services; now children in India and Indonesia are joining bereaved Chinese youngsters in receiving support through Give2Asia that honours their parents' sacrifice.

The Heroes Legacy programme was launched in China in 2020 and raised 5 million US dollars to fund a specially designed package of health, education, and other support measures for 163 children of frontline workers who died confronting the pandemic. Beneficiaries, some still just infants,

will be able to count on help for their welfare and development until they are 22.

Such was the response to the Chinese scheme – collecting 3 million dollars abroad and 2 million within China – that Give2Asia, the King Baudouin Foundation's founding partner in the Myriad cross-border giving alliance, has worked with local organisations in India and Indonesia to set up similar facilities in those countries.

"Many frontline workers in India and Indonesia lost their lives and left behind children," says Carol Yang, Give2Asia's chief representative in China. "For a child, losing one or both parents is devastating. It can affect nutrition and development as well as add to risks of neglect or even violence – particularly for those from low-income families."

"Our donors' goal is to honour the sacrifices of essential workers by supporting the productive development of their children's futures."

Carol Yang, chief representative, China, Give2Asia

Indonesia, India partners

Working with established local partners Child Rights & You in India and Human Initiative and YCAB Foundation in Indonesia, the aim is to raise 2 million dollars to support 400 youngsters who lost one or both parents. These organisations will deliver psychosocial and educational support as well as professional training and workplace skills.





NEWS FROM OUR MYRIAD PARTNERS



Give2Asia is a trusted partner for international philanthropy and the leader in donor-advised giving to the Asia-Pacific. Our mission is to strengthen communities in Asia by making cross-border giving easier and more effective. Since 2001, Give2Asia has facilitated more than 535 million US dollars of charitable grants in more than 30 countries.



If the initial fundraising goal is exceeded, Give2Asia will expand the programmes to benefit more children, once successful models have been put in place for the initial cohorts.

In India, the first 150 children will be in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, and Haryana and will receive support for five years. As well as medical personnel, their parents were providing vital transport, sanitation, and food services during lockdown.

The official death toll of 2,928 among essential workers in India is widely seen as a substantial under-estimate. Many of the families of deceased frontline workers have not only faced immense personal loss but also face financial difficulties.

Education and healthcare

The Heroes Legacy programme in India will provide mental health counselling and life skills lessons online, as well as outings for sport, theatre, and other activities. Children will be able to take advantage, too, of remedial and supplementary teaching, especially in science and technical subjects, and get help with school fees and supplies.

Families and caregivers can request assistance with feeding bereaved children, while youngsters will be entitled to health checks and, for older teenagers, career advice.

Life skills, and careers

The Indonesia programme is initially offered to around 250 children for three years, with the potential to help many more children in future. Again, the death toll in Indonesia is assumed to have been far higher than the official figure of 1,200 healthcare workers.

Among services that will be provided to caregivers, the Indonesia programme will also offer financial literacy training and digital marketing mentoring, while children will get help with subjects including English, digital skills, and entrepreneurship.



To give to Heroes Legacy India, donors can find details online here <https://give2asia.org/heroes-legacy-india/>, while the Indonesia programme is here <https://give2asia.org/heroes-legacy-indonesia/>. Both programmes are tax-deductible in the United States. Donors wishing to explore other possibilities are invited to use the Myriad network <https://myriad.org/contact/> to contact the partner organisation best placed to assist.

KBF

IN FIGURES

2022

€ 118,533,011

IN SUPPORT PROVIDED

4,037

ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTED

497

INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED

1,247

ACTIVE FUNDS SET UP BY
INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES

189

CALLS FOR PROJECTS

4,610

EXPERTS IN OUR INDEPENDENT
JURIES AND COMMITTEES

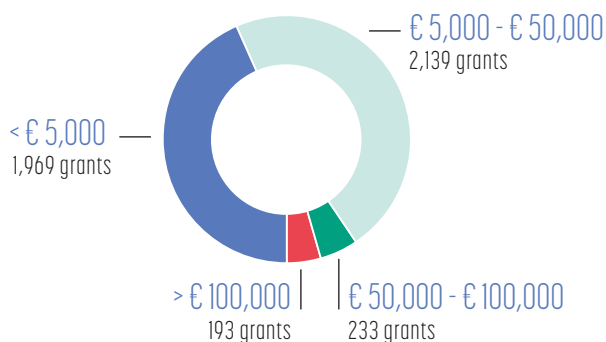
109

MEMBERS OF STAFF

126,376

DONATIONS TO THIRD-PARTY PROJECTS
MADE VIA THE KBF

SUPPORT: AMOUNT

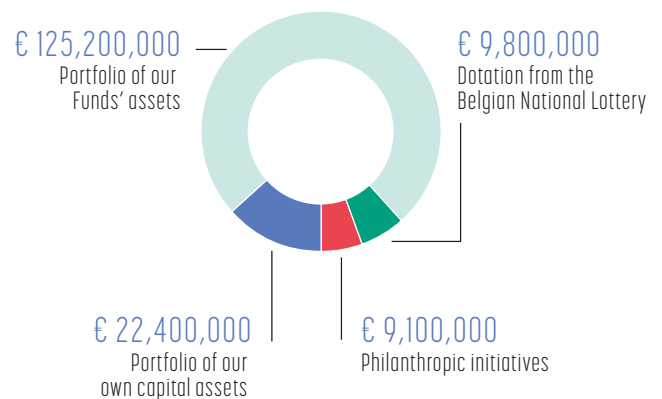


2023

€ 166,500,000

TOTAL BUDGET

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM ?



WITH THANKS TO
THE BELGIAN NATIONAL LOTTERY
AND ITS PLAYERS,
AND ALSO TO OUR MANY
DONORS FOR THEIR ONGOING
COMMITMENT

