

**CLEAN  
AIR  
FUND**

# **THE STATE OF GLOBAL AIR QUALITY FUNDING 2020**

An analysis of Official  
Development Finance and  
foundation funding to  
improve outdoor air quality

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This report is written by the Clean Air Fund, a global philanthropic initiative that works to combat air pollution, improve human health and accelerate decarbonisation.

This report has been made possible by the generous data sharing of leading foundations in the air quality field and public records of Official Development Finance.

The Clean Air Fund is funded by:



# FOREWORD

The clean air movement is at a tipping point. Outdoor air pollution is responsible for over 4 million deaths every year. It shares many of the same causes as climate change, for which we are dangerously close to a point of no return.

At the same time, political will to tackle air pollution is also rising, as we learn more about the damage it does, and the multiple benefits cleaner air would bring for our health and environment.

So, we have momentum, but no time to waste. Typically, United Nations Resolutions take several years to approve. It is telling that the one which resulted in the first International Day of Clean Air for blue skies was passed in just three months. We must use this momentum as a springboard for concerted, joined-up action to tackle this global problem.

In this context, this report is a very important and welcome contribution. It provides the only global overview of funding for outdoor air quality, and the first assessment of Official Development Finance for this issue. This gives a basis for targeting funding where it is most urgently needed and allows funders to see who else is working on similar or complementary projects. These findings will help governments and foundations to work together to reinforce each other's efforts and strengthen the field as a whole.

There are lots of opportunities. The report highlights many potential synergies between philanthropic and government-funded efforts to tackle different elements of the problem. For example, governments tend to focus on delivering technical solutions, whereas foundations increasingly look towards data and research to improve our understanding of this complex problem. We need both to work hand-in-hand to fix it, and this shows there is scope for greater collaboration.

Finally, the report underscores the urgent need for more funding in this area. The Clean Air Fund was able to identify just US \$273m in grant funding to tackle air pollution directly between 2015 and 2019. This represents a tiny fraction of development funding overall, and of what is needed to tackle a challenge of this scale and scope, as well as seize the multiple benefits of cleaning our air.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our way of life forever. It has also shown us what is possible when humanity is faced with an existential threat and works together to address it. We now have a critical window of opportunity that demands bold, decisive and informed leadership, and effective global collaboration. With a strategic and well-resourced approach to cleaning our air we can improve health, build resilience to future pandemics, boost productivity, reduce health costs, and help tackle climate change.

This research shows how we can work together to deliver maximum return on the money invested in tackling air pollution. I will be using its findings to inform discussions and push for decisions at key international moments in the coming months, and I encourage others to do likewise.



**BAN KI-MOON**  
8th Secretary-General  
of the United Nations  
and Chairman, National  
Council of Climate and  
Air Quality.



Dr Maria Neira, Director, Public Health, Environment and Social Determinants of Health Department, World Health Organisation

“Every human being has the right to clean air. If we can deliver it, we will also unlock solutions to other critically pressing problems, like climate change and deadly diseases. The benefits would reach the poorest and most vulnerable first.

This research shows there are opportunities for funders to work together strategically to ensure our efforts support and reinforce each other. We owe it to ourselves and future generations to seize these chances.”

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Improving air quality is an opportunity to meet multiple development goals: cleaner air results in healthier citizens living in more equitable, sustainable, and productive societies. Successfully reaching these goals is all the more critical as the world looks to build back from COVID-19. Action on air pollution is an opportunity to build back healthier, greener, economically stronger and with greater resilience.

Achieving clean air is a global challenge; solving it needs significant and sustained funding from all types of donors. This report reviews the state of global funding to improve outdoor air quality from philanthropic foundations and Official Development Finance. Its purpose is to support donors and implementers to identify funding gaps, to gain insights into what and where others are funding, and to build collaboration. The analysis covers the investment made to date, the geographies and types of projects being funded, and trends over time.

## **Our analysis shows that, for foundation funding:**

- **Philanthropic foundations granted at least \$118m** in outdoor air quality grants between 2015 and 2019.
- **Funding on outdoor air quality fell slightly for the first time in at least five years between 2018 and 2019**, in contrast to significant growth in prior years.
- **Air quality grant-making is becoming more evenly geographically distributed.** Funding to Europe, India, and at a global level increased in

2019, and decreased significantly in the USA and China.

- **Grants on the topic of ‘data’ are the fastest growing**, with support for activities to monitor air pollution and understand its sources growing by 57% between 2018 and 2019.
- **Health foundations represent only 3% of total-grant-making**, with two-thirds of funding being granted by foundations focussed on climate and the environment, but there are signs that this will change in future years.

## **Our analysis shows that, for Official Donor Funding:**

- **Official Donors granted at least \$155m in outdoor air quality grants between 2015 and 2019.**
- **Grant-making reached a five-year high in 2018 at \$67m**, driven by a \$44.5m grant made in Kosovo by EU Institutions, which is by far the largest single grant made by Official Donors on outdoor air quality.
- **Official Donor grants focussed on ‘implementation’** (investing in infrastructure to directly reduce air pollution). This project category made up 50% of Official Donor grants between 2015 and 2019.
- **Grant-making is only 6% of Official Development Finance; loans constitute 94%** (\$2.4 bn between 2015 and 2019), with almost all of these loans supporting activities in China.

**We recommend that:**

- **Foundations and Official Donors should work together more deeply to develop complementary programmes that achieve greater impact.** There are not many examples of foundation and Official Donor collaboration in the air quality space, yet our analysis shows that both donor types grant comparable amounts and support complementary projects. There is an opportunity to coordinate funding, co-create strategies and communicate shared learnings to achieve greater impact in this field.
- **The broad benefits of tackling air quality – for economic development, equity and children as well as climate and health – should be demonstrated more clearly to grow the number and diversity of funders.** Action on air quality is a significant opportunity to meet multiple Sustainable Development Goals within the same investment, improving the efficiency of funding. This is particularly important as COVID-19 threatens aid budgets. Donors and grantees should more clearly demonstrate the broad impact of their projects. Doing so will bring more partners to the issue and help to diversify the field.
- **As funding becomes more geographically diverse and potentially more limited due to the economic consequences of COVID-19, donors should invest in exporting best practice and sharing lessons.** As the number of countries working to reduce air pollution grows, there will be more evidence about what works, and more examples of projects that could be replicated. Air pollution has no regular global convening where examples of success can be shared. Donors need to invest in distilling and communicating information beyond the geographies they work in, for example through networks, events and resource hubs.



**NINE OUT OF  
TEN PEOPLE  
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BREATHE  
POLLUTED  
AIR**

# WHY INVEST IN IMPROVING AIR QUALITY?

A society cannot be healthy, equitable and productive without clean air. And yet, poor air quality is an almost universal reality: nine out of ten people breathe air that is damaging their health, resulting in millions of premature deaths each year.<sup>1</sup>

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the issue of air pollution to the fore even more. Decades of exposure to toxic air has worsened the health of communities globally, leaving millions with illnesses that predispose them to the most severe impacts of COVID-19.<sup>2</sup> We have also seen the near instant improvement to air quality that can occur when polluting activities are halted.<sup>3</sup> As attention turns to recovering from the COVID-19 crisis, trillions will be spent globally to stimulate the economy.<sup>4</sup>

Now is the time to take bold, decisive, and informed action towards achieving clean air for all. Doing so will be critical in solving the biggest development challenges we face:

- **Rapidly improving public health:** Reducing exposure to air pollution leads to almost immediate health benefits, with acute illness, hospitalisations, premature births, and mortality decreasing significantly as air quality improves.<sup>5</sup>
- **Protecting the most vulnerable:** The ill, the elderly, children, and the poor are most impacted by air pollution, but are often the least responsible for it.<sup>6</sup> Reducing exposure will improve their health and productivity, tackling inequality.
- **Delivering a win-win for climate action:** Interventions to tackle air pollution will reduce fossil fuel emissions, immediately improving health and simultaneously decarbonising our societies.
- **Bringing economic growth:** Implementing policies that clean the air can return up to fifty times their costs owing to improved health and productivity.<sup>7</sup>

# THE STATE OF GLOBAL AIR QUALITY FUNDING

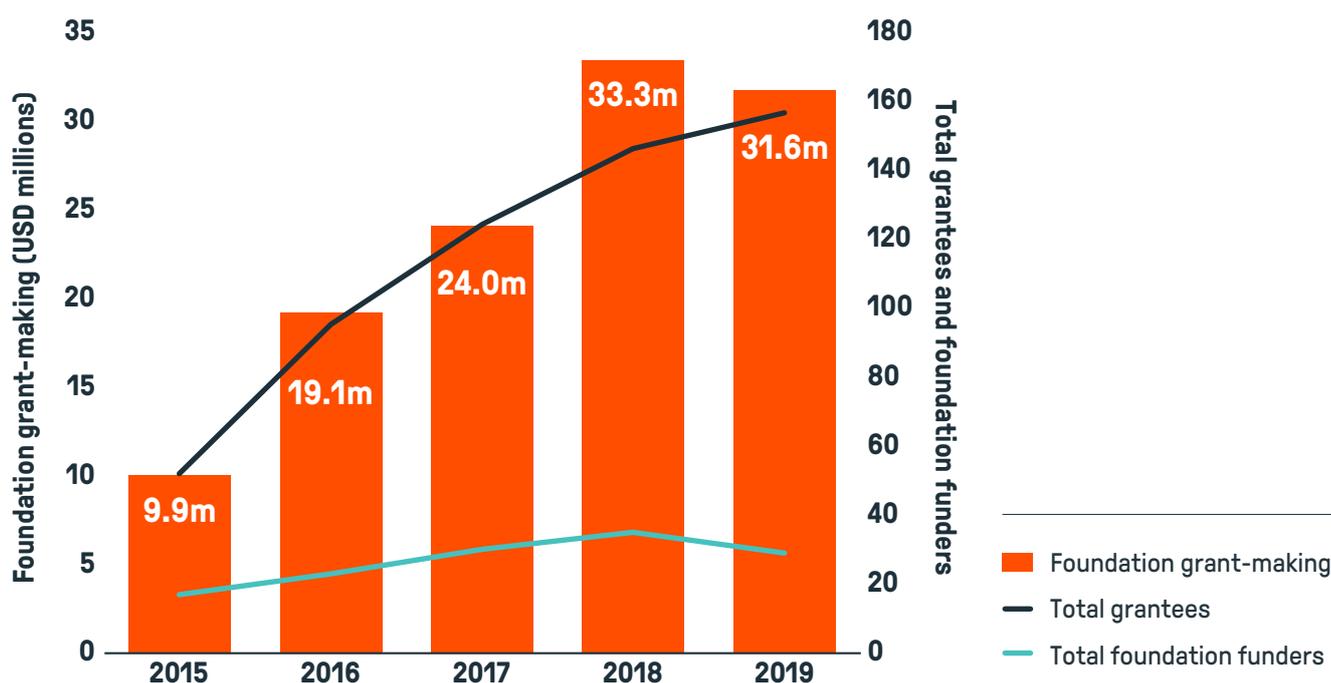
## FOUNDATION FUNDING

This report is made possible by the generous data sharing of leading foundations in the air quality field. It is intended to provide a representative view of the state of global funding. We recognise that funding totals are likely to be an underestimate as not all funder information was available at the time of writing and there may be some funders supporting air quality work that we are not yet aware of. A summary of the methodology is provided on page 20.

**Finding 1: Prior to 2019, foundation funding on air quality was growing rapidly year-on-year. In 2019, funding fell slightly compared to 2018, although funding was still a third higher than in 2017.**

- Between 2015 and 2018, there was an average annual growth rate of over 50% in air quality grant-making from leading foundations. However, in 2019, annual grant-making to air quality fell slightly year-on-year for the first time since at least 2015 (by 5%). This was driven by a drop in the number of foundation funders making grants: we are aware of eight foundations that made air quality grants in 2018 that did not make an air quality grant in 2019.
- The number of grantees (organisations receiving funding) has increased every year, although the rate of growth slowed to 7% in 2019 compared to a peak growth rate of 81% between 2015 and 2016. In 2019, at least 156 unique grantees were supported by foundation grant-making, up from 52 in 2015.

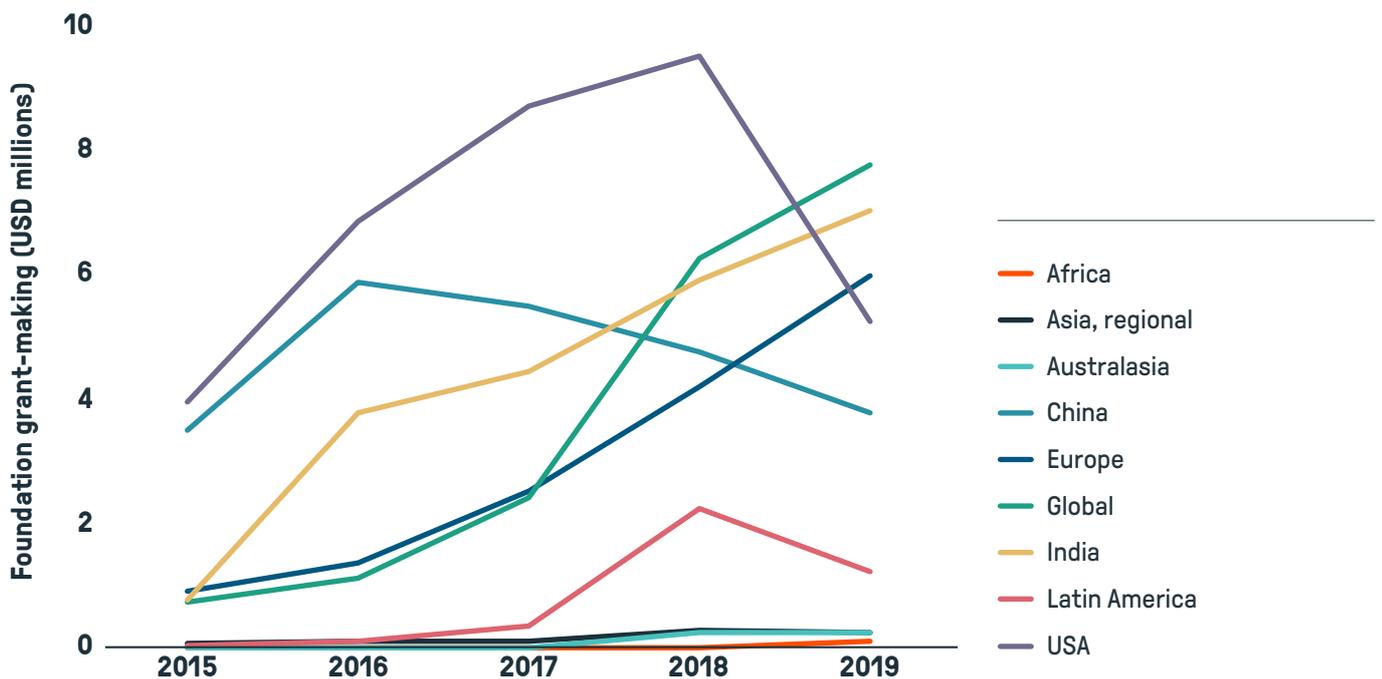
**FIGURE 1: TOTAL ANNUAL FOUNDATION GRANT-MAKING, NUMBER OF GRANTEES AND FOUNDATION FUNDERS, 2015–2019**



**Finding 2: Foundation funding is becoming more evenly geographically distributed.**

- The USA and China were by far the biggest recipients of foundation grant-making between 2015 and 2018, collectively receiving more than half (56%) of all foundation grant-making across these years (34% in the USA and 23% in China). Donations to these two countries fell in 2019 to collectively represent nearly a third of total foundation grant-making (17% in the USA and 12% in China).
- The USA experienced the largest fall in foundation grant-making received of any region, declining by 45% in 2019 compared to 2018. This was due to five fewer funders making air quality grants in the USA in 2019 compared to 2018. Foundation funders also made smaller grants: in 2018, the average funder made \$632k of air quality grants in the USA, compared to an average of \$524k in 2019.
- The fastest growing region for grant-making between 2018 and 2019 was Europe (42% growth), followed by Global projects (24% growth) and India (20% growth).
- Most foundation grant-making in Europe is pan-regional (68%). Within Europe, the highest individual recipient country is the UK (21% of European funding).
- Whilst some Global grant-making may have been targeted to regions in Africa, the continent received only 0.2% in direct foundation grant-making in 2019, considerably lower than in any other geography.

**FIGURE 2: REGIONAL TRENDS IN FOUNDATION GRANT-MAKING, 2015–2019**



**Finding 3: Foundation funding to air quality has focussed primarily on communications and policy projects. Data is the fastest growing project area for foundation funding.**

- ‘Communications and Awareness’, and ‘Policy and Politics’ projects remain the most significant focus areas for foundation grant-making, together making up more than half of funding in 2019 (31% and 25% respectively).
- The need to monitor the levels of air pollution and understand where it is coming from went up the agenda in 2019, with projects related to ‘Data’ increasing by 57% to a total of 15% of grant-making in 2019.
- Nearly half (44%) of foundation grant-making on ‘Data’ supports the deployment of low-cost sensors. The remaining grant-making supports diverse projects including technical assistance, air quality modelling and the development of data platforms.
- In a year when absolute levels of foundation funding to outdoor air quality projects dropped overall, funding to Impacts-related projects also grew (by 25%), indicating that there is an increasing focus on the health, economic and social consequences of pollution.
- The imbalance of grant-making across project areas is not indicative of an imbalance in delivery, as other funders

often prioritise different areas. For example, ‘implementation’ work such as procurement of clean infrastructure, is typically funded by governments and development banks (see Official Development Finance section).

**PROJECT TYPES – DEFINITIONS**

**Data:** To improve the amount, availability, transparency, accuracy or accessibility of air quality information and data.

**Impacts:** To increase understanding of the impact of air pollution on health, the environment and the economy.

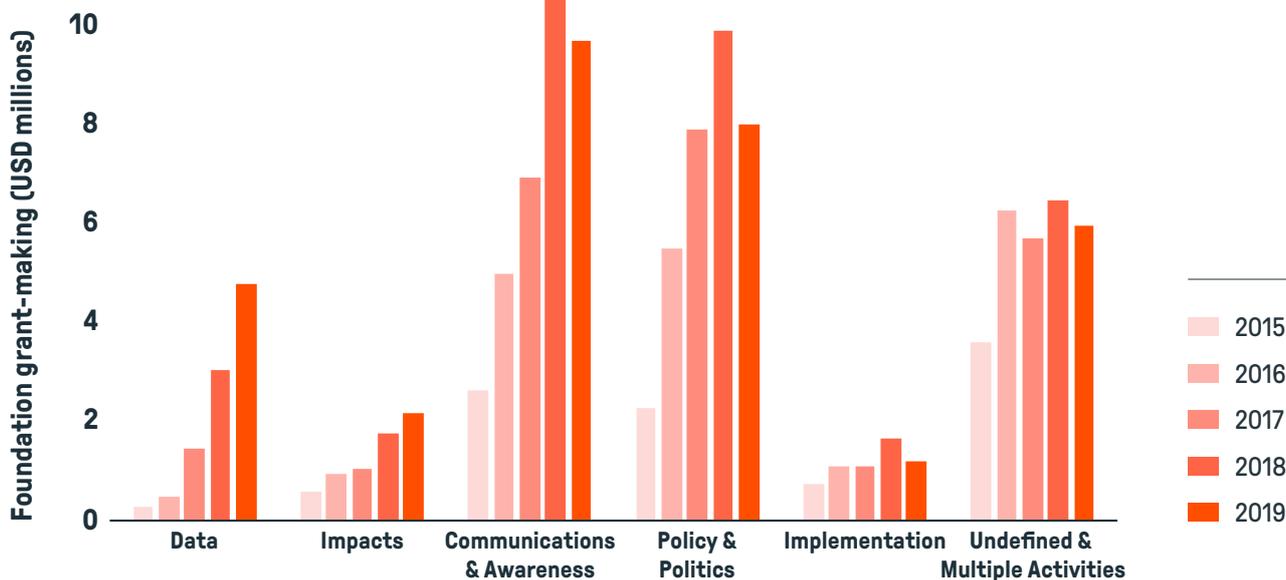
**Communications and Awareness:** To raise awareness of air pollution, including campaigning, communications and events.

**Policy and Politics:** To develop, promote, and transform public policies on air quality.

**Implementation:** To invest in the implementation of infrastructure to improve air quality.

**Undefined:** To support core costs of an organisation focussed on air quality, where multiple strategies were supported, or where it was not possible to assign an activity type based on the information provided.

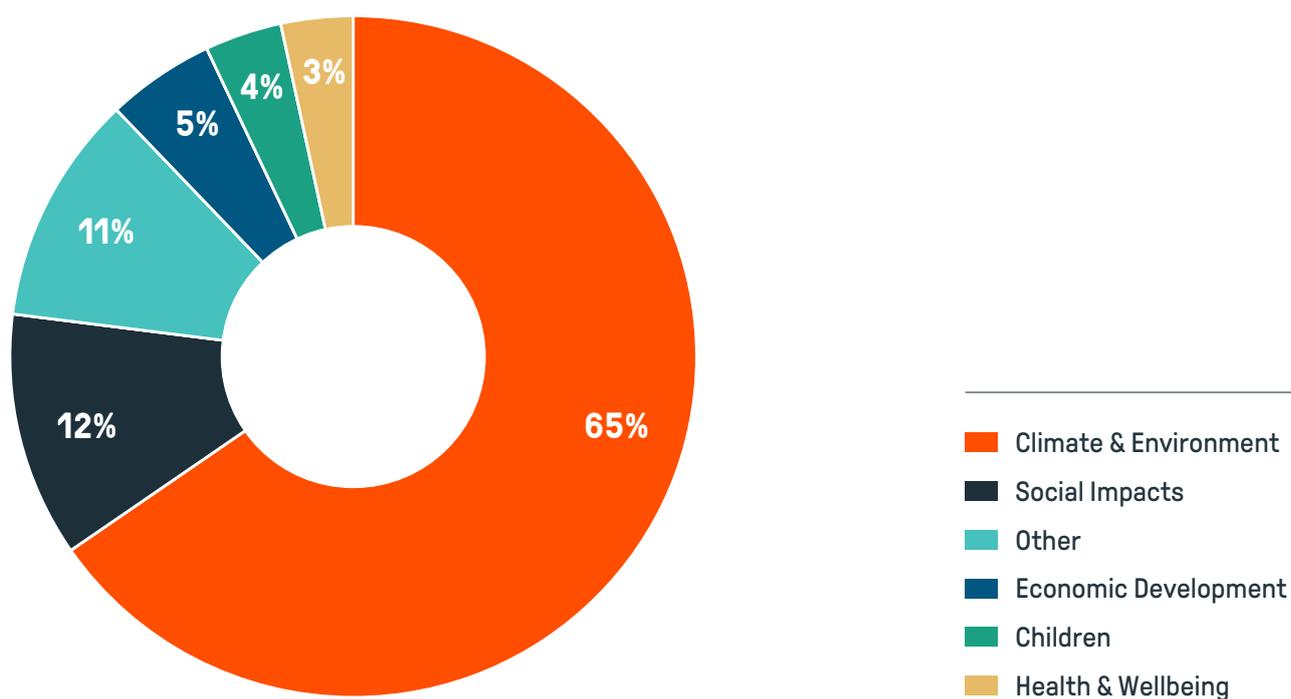
**FIGURE 3: TOTAL FOUNDATION GRANT-MAKING BY PROJECT TYPE, 2015–2019**



**Finding 4: A third of foundation funding on air quality is granted by foundations who are not primarily focussed on climate and environment. Health donors currently represent only 3% of total grant-making.**

- In 2019, two-thirds (65%) of foundation funders granting on air quality were organisations that primarily focus on Climate and Environment issues, followed by organisations that primarily focus on Social Impacts (12%).
- There has been limited change in the diversity of foundations granting to air quality since 2015. Across the period 2015–2019, foundation funders with a focus on Climate and Environment constituted 62% of air quality grant-making.
- Most foundations supporting air quality projects are based in the Global North: 45% of grant-funding came from organisations that are based in the USA and 42% in Europe.

**FIGURE 4: PERCENTAGE OF GRANTS BY PHILANTHROPIC FOUNDATION FOCUS AREAS IN 2019**



## HEALTH FOUNDATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO INCREASE THEIR PROPORTION OF GRANT-MAKING IN FUTURE YEARS

Air pollution is a public health issue and is becoming more prominent in the strategies of health-focused foundations. For example, in April 2020 Guy's and St Thomas' Charity (GSTC) – an independent urban health foundation – launched a new £40m ten-year programme to explore how people's health is affected by poor air quality, and test solutions in the heart of London.

GSTC's programme will gather evidence, analyse local data and explore how people experience air pollution in South London, to identify and test interventions to minimise negative health impacts for those most vulnerable to it. GSTC works closely with its partners, including with the Clean Air Fund to test solutions in place and scale best practice globally.

Kate Langford, Programme Director, Health effects of air pollution at Guy's and St Thomas' Charity, said "Similar to the other health issues we work on, air quality is an issue of health inequality, with the negative impacts most keenly felt by certain vulnerable groups. As such, we find solutions and focus on groups whose health is most impacted by air pollution: children, older people and people with heart and lung conditions. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated clearly that health outcomes are the result of inter-related determinants of health, like where we work and live. We see tackling air pollution as key to addressing the systemic causes of health inequalities faced by urban communities and welcome a broad coalition of foundations and other actors turning their attention to addressing these inequalities and achieving clean air for all."



**KATE LANGFORD**  
Programme Director,  
Guy's and St Thomas' Charity

## OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

There are three main types of Official Development Finance made by Official Donors\*:

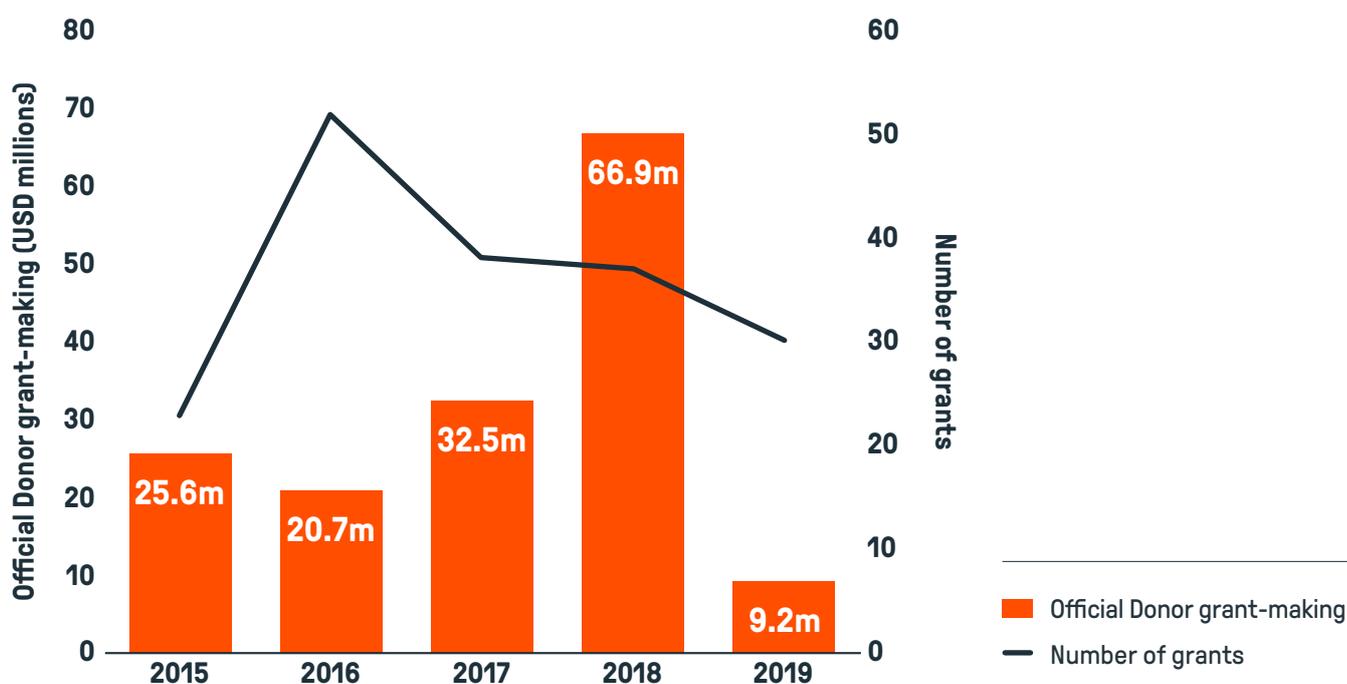
- Grants: Non-repayable funding
- Concessional Loans: Concessional lending by official development funders, typically to lower-income nations
- Other Loans: Less concessional funding, typically to middle-income countries (otherwise known as Other Official Funding)

This analysis primarily focusses on grants, to ensure comparability with foundation funding. Information about concessional and other loans can be found at the end of this section. Funding information for this section was accessed from public sources. This analysis is therefore dependent on the quality of reporting by Official Donors. A summary of the methodology is provided on page 20.

**Finding 5: Grant-making on air quality by Official Donors has been highly variable from year to year, with a five-year peak of \$67m in 2018 and a five-year low of \$9m in 2019. Official Donors made at least \$155m in outdoor air quality grants between 2015 and 2019.**

- There is large annual variability in the amount of Official Donor funding to outdoor air quality projects. This is because Official Donors often make fewer grants of higher value, so a small change in the number of grants has a large impact on the value of grants committed in a given year: the average Official Donor grant award committed between 2015 and 2019 was \$1.4m, compared to \$265k for foundation funding.
- The five-year peak in Official Donor grant-making on air quality in 2018 was largely due to a single grant made to support clean air in Kosovo, amounting to \$44m (see finding 6). This is by far the largest grant made by an Official Donor on air quality in recent years; the next largest was a \$5.9m grant to support pollution reduction in Indonesia.

**FIGURE 5: TOTAL ANNUAL OFFICIAL DONOR GRANT-MAKING, 2015–2019**

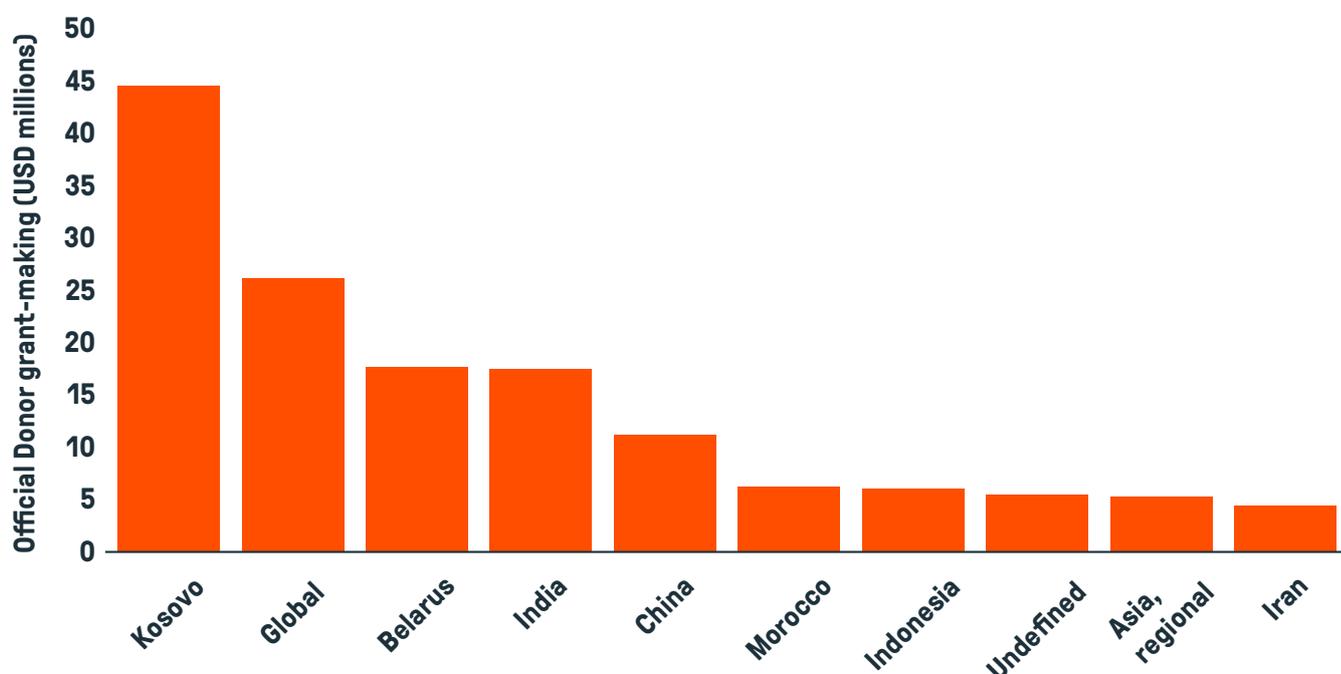


\* Official Donors are defined as government development agencies or multilateral bodies such as the World Bank, United Nations agencies, and regional development banks

**Finding 6: Kosovo received the largest amount of grant funding from Official Donors between 2015 and 2019 (\$44m), due to a large EU programme in 2018.**

- A single grant made by EU institutions to Kosovo made up 29% of Official Donor air quality grants between 2015 and 2019. 17% of grant-making was made to global projects, and 11% to both Belarus and India, followed by 7% to China.
- A further 19 countries or regions\* received grants from Official Donors for air quality projects between 2015 and 2019, each receiving on average \$541k in grants across the period.
- The three largest donors were EU institutions, the USA and the United Kingdom, which collectively provided three quarters (74%, \$115m) of Official Donor grants between 2015 and 2019.\*\*

**FIGURE 6: TOP 10 RECIPIENTS OF GRANTS MADE BY OFFICIAL DONORS, 2015–2019**



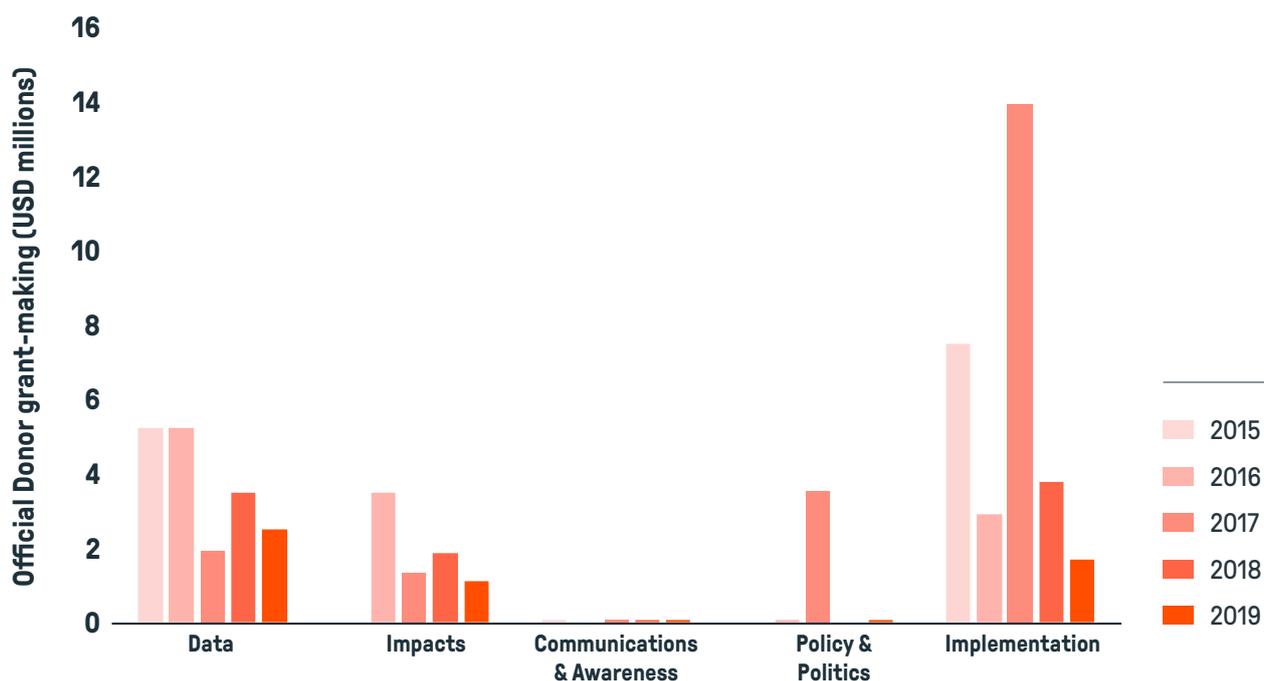
\* Other countries or regions receiving grants, from highest recipients to lowest, are: Honduras, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mongolia, Peru, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Africa (regional), Europe (regional), Nepal, Kenya, Philippines, Central Asia, Ukraine, Thailand, America (regional), Nicaragua, North Macedonia, and Far East Asia (regional).

\*\* Other funders outside of EU institutions, the USA, and the United Kingdom are, from highest funder by level of grants to lowest: Germany, Canada, Switzerland, Norway, Japan, Sweden, the Asian Development Bank, Italy, UNDP, Austria, Czech Republic, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark and Greece.

**Finding 7: Data and implementation projects made up the greatest proportion of grants made by Official Donors between 2015 to 2019, when excluding grants to multiple activities.**

- In contrast to foundation funding, Official Donors tend to provide large grants covering multiple project types. 61% of Official Donor grants on air quality between 2015 and 2019 – including the very large grant to Kosovo – were assigned across multiple project types and are therefore not included in the chart above.
- ‘Implementation’ projects – investment in infrastructure or technology that will directly improve air quality – made up 50% of Official Donor grants between 2015 and 2019. These grants were almost all in low- and middle-income countries and regions, including India grants (35% of total ‘Implementation’ funding), Asia (37%) and Africa (18%).
- ‘Data’ projects - to measure the extent and source of air pollution - are the second most popular project type supported by Official Donors, making up 31% of grants between 2015 and 2019. The highest recipient regions for grants in ‘Data’ projects were China (25% of total ‘Data’ grants), the Middle East (24%) and Latin America (12%).
- Only 0.2% of grants made by Official Donors went to ‘Communications and Awareness’ projects, and 2.4% to ‘Policy and Politics’ projects.

**FIGURE 7: OFFICIAL DONOR GRANTS BY PROJECT TYPE, 2015–2019**



**Finding 8: Grants made up only 6% of total Official Development Finance. Most funding has been in the form of loans (94%), the vast majority of which supported a programme of work in China.**

- The majority of the analysis in this report covers grant-making. Official Donors also make loans, but in much higher values. Over the five years between 2015 and 2019, Official Donors granted \$155m to outdoor air quality projects and made \$2.3bn in loans (4% in concessional loans and 90% in other loans – see definitions on page 12).
- With all types of funding considered, China received 93% of Official Development Finance (\$2.2 billion). Almost all (99.5%) of this was in the form of loans to support a series of programmes made from 2016 in China’s Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region.
- The top donors when considering all types of Official Development Finance is the Asian Development Bank (44% of total funding) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (35% of total funding).

**BROAD FUNDING AND SUPPORT DRIVES IMPROVEMENT IN CHINA’S AIR QUALITY**

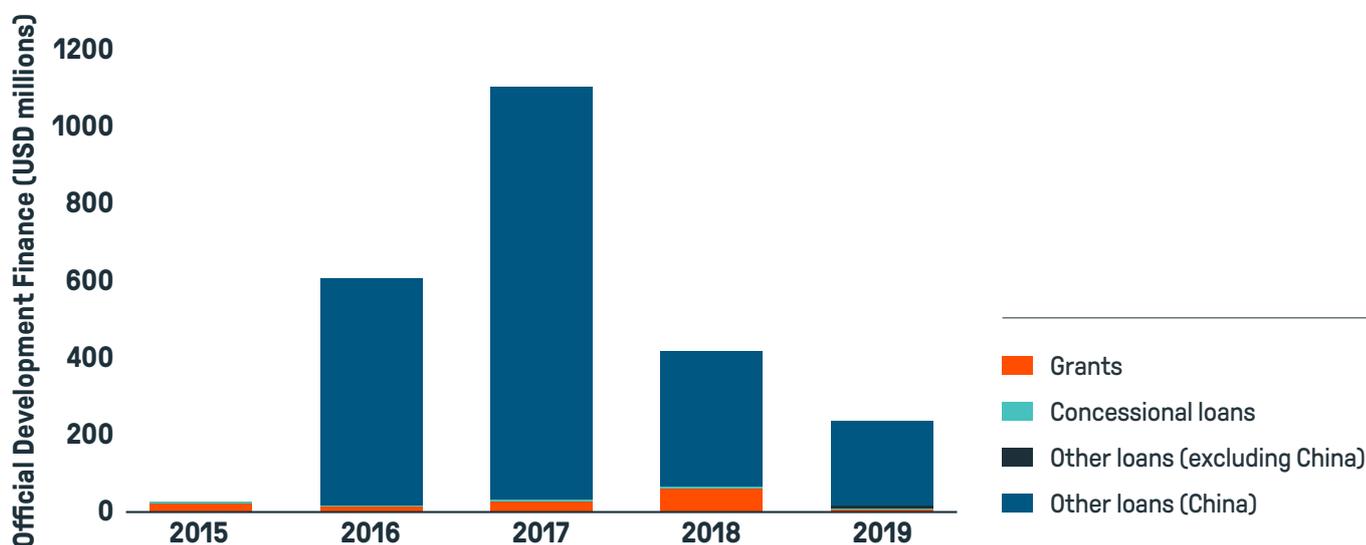
Due to rapid urbanisation and industrialisation, China experienced some of the worst outdoor air pollution levels in the world in the 1990s and 2000s. At that time, ambient air quality in China was heavily affecting both public health and the economy, causing an estimated 1.23 million premature deaths<sup>8</sup> across China. In 2014, 70% of China’s worst polluted cities were in the Hebei region.<sup>9</sup>

As a result, the Chinese government announced a “War on pollution” in 2012.<sup>10</sup> National and regional government improvement programmes were implemented, alongside significant donor support, to:

- Develop new legislation and enforcement mechanisms
- Implement more stringent standards
- Develop a strong monitoring capacity
- Build public environmental awareness

Between 2015-2019, China received \$2.2 billion in Official Development Finance. China was also the second largest recipient of philanthropic spend between 2015 and 2019, with \$41.4m (20% of the total) going towards air quality initiatives in the region. The combination of funding and political will resulted in Beijing experiencing an unprecedented 35% and 25% reduction in annual average PM2.5 concentrations between 2013 and 2017.<sup>10</sup> Annual average concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> decreased by 93.3%, 37.8% and 55.3% respectively over the same period.

**FIGURE 8: TOTAL ANNUAL OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE, 2015–2019**



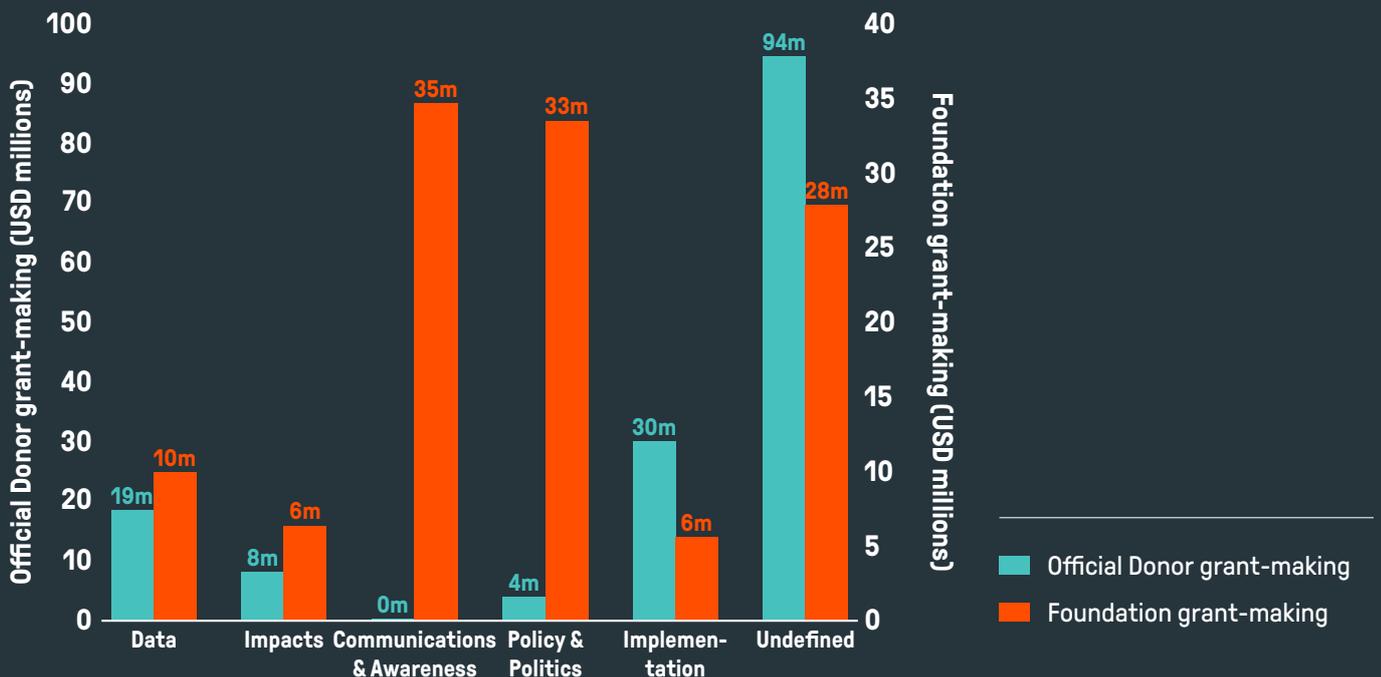
# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDERS

## 1

### FOUNDATIONS AND OFFICIAL DONORS SHOULD WORK TOGETHER MORE DEEPLY TO DEVELOP COMPLEMENTARY PROGRAMMES THAT ACHIEVE GREATER IMPACT.

- Currently there are not many examples of foundation and Official Donor collaboration in the air quality space. Comparison of where the two donor types make grants shows that foundation and Official Donor funding is highly complementary and there are opportunities for complementary programmes.
- There is an appetite for partnership; for example, Official Donor data has been added to this report for the first time this year at the request of both foundations and Official Donors, in order to help inform collaboration.
- Foundations tend to fund projects that raise awareness of the issue and support policy-making. Official Donors primarily finance the implementation of infrastructure and technological solutions. There is potential for foundations and Official Donors to line up this complementary funding in specific geographies, for example by ensuring that investment in infrastructure is supported by citizens and backed up by reinforcing policies.
- Both donor types invest in Data (improving the amount, accuracy and accessibility of air quality information). Foundation funding on data projects grew by 57% between 2018 and 2019, and data was the second most invested in area after implementation for Official Donors. Given the wealth of new sensors coming onto the market, the rapid pace of change in this sector and the opportunities afforded by AI and data analytics, foundations and Official Donors have the opportunity to coordinate funding, co-create strategies and communicate shared learnings to maximise the impact achieved in this field.

FIGURE 9: FOUNDATION AND OFFICIAL DONOR GRANT-MAKING TO AIR QUALITY, 2015–2019



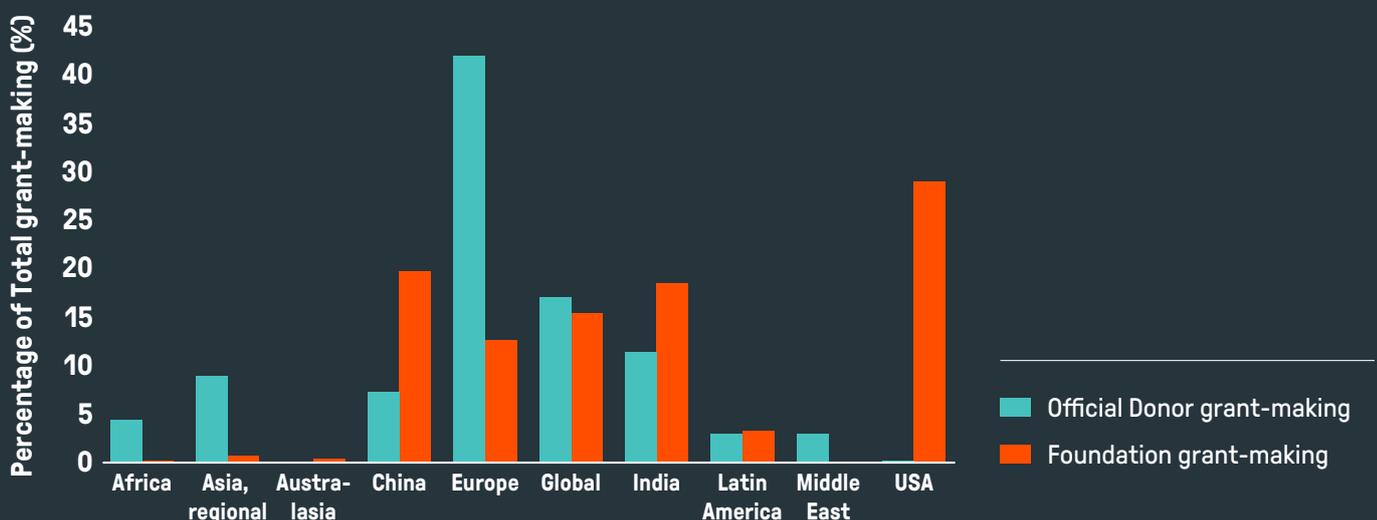
## 2 THE BROAD BENEFITS OF TACKLING AIR QUALITY – FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, EQUITY AND CHILDREN AS WELL AS CLIMATE AND HEALTH – SHOULD BE DEMONSTRATED MORE CLEARLY TO GROW THE NUMBER AND DIVERSITY OF FUNDERS.

- Action on air quality brings a significant opportunity to meet multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the same investment, improving the efficiency in funding. In particular, reducing exposure to air pollution improves health (SDG 3), tackles decarbonisation (SDG 7 and 13), reduces inequalities (SDG 10) and fosters job creation and sustainable economic development (SDG 8). Funders and grantees alike should more clearly demonstrate these linkages and evidence the impact of air quality projects on each of these issues. Doing so will bring more partners to the issue, helping to diversify the field.
- This is particularly important as we experience the full social and economic impacts of COVID-19. Domestic public resources in developing countries – which are critical to achieving the SDGs – are projected to fall by \$1.7 trillion over the next two years, even in an optimistic scenario.<sup>11</sup> At the same time, Official Development Finance may be cut as a global economic recession begins to take hold. Both of these things will very likely result in an increase in global poverty.<sup>11</sup> There has therefore never been a more critical time for funding that delivers multiple benefits.

## 3 AS FUNDING BECOMES MORE GEOGRAPHICALLY DIVERSE AND MORE LIMITED, DONORS SHOULD INVEST IN EXPORTING BEST PRACTICE AND SHARING LESSONS.

- In 2019, foundation funding became less concentrated in China and the USA. Grant funding from Official Donors is already geographically diverse, outstripping foundation funding in Africa, Asia (excluding India and China specific grants), Europe, Global initiatives and the Middle East.
- As the number of countries working to reduce air pollution grows, there will be more evidence about what works, and more examples of projects that could be replicated. The challenge is to distil best practice and lessons and ensure it is shared widely. Unlike other issues of global concern, air pollution has no UN Summit or global convening point where these stories and examples can be naturally shared. Donors need to invest in distilling and communicating information beyond the geographies they work in, and supporting the uptake of this information, for example through networks, events and resource hubs.

FIGURE 10: FOUNDATION AND OFFICIAL DONOR GRANT FUNDING BY REGION, 2015–2019



# GET INVOLVED

The Clean Air Fund is building the movement for clean air, bringing together funders, researchers, policy makers and campaigners interested in climate change, children, equity and health to work towards a world in which information about the state of our air is transparent, accessible and used globally.

As well as mobilising at least \$100m in funding for air pollution by the end of 2022, we lead a coalition of funders in the strategic identification of gaps and support of a multinational portfolio of clean air programmes that deliver the most impactful and scalable improvements to air quality.

Our activities aim to ensure that the problem – and the benefits – of tackling air pollution are recognised and addressed widely.

To find out more about the Clean Air Fund, or to contribute data to future iterations of this report, please contact [info@cleanairfund.org](mailto:info@cleanairfund.org) or visit [www.cleanairfund.org](http://www.cleanairfund.org)

# METHODOLOGY

This report has been made possible by the generous data sharing of leading foundations and by public records of Official Development Finance spend. Every effort has been made to ensure the data presented in this report is representative of the global air quality funding landscape. We recognise that the accuracy of this analysis is dependent on the quality of information provided by donors and the availability of funding information. The Clean Air Fund welcomes the input of any funders not approached in developing this report to inform future publications.

## SOURCES OF THE DATA

### Foundation funding

- Data was collected via direct engagement with foundations known to be granting on air pollution and from public sources.
- Data collection was supported by the ClimateWorks Foundation Global Intelligence Unit. Historical data obtained by ClimateWorks and not included in the Clean Air Fund's 2019 Clearing the Air report has been included here to improve the representativeness of the data.

### Official Development Finance

- Data up to 2019 is drawn from the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) database maintained by the OECD-DAC.
- CRS data takes approximately a year to publish. 2019 data is therefore from the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI). Data from both sources were compared to ensure consistency across years prior to 2019. Given the data for 2019 is drawn from a different source to the data for 2015–2018, it is considered preliminary.
- Philanthropic records included within the CRS database were excluded from the analysis to concentrate only on records from what the DAC refer to as 'Official Donors' (nation states and multilateral organisations).

- Additional information on projects was obtained from documents contained in Official Donor websites.
- Official Development Finance data collection was supported by Development Initiatives.

## ANALYSIS AND ASSUMPTIONS

### All data

- Grants included in this analysis are those made directly towards improving outdoor air quality: that is, any grant where mitigating outdoor air pollution was the primary objective of the grant. We have not included grants where improvement to air quality is an indirect benefit or secondary objective of the grant, such as carbon dioxide mitigation projects.
- Grants that span multiple years were assumed to be disbursed evenly over those years. This is to prevent very large grants awarded in a single year but granted across multiple years significantly skewing the data. This approach was taken for both foundation funding and Official Development Finance to enable comparison.
- In the instances where no end date was assigned to a grant, the duration of the grant was assumed to be one year.
- A grant invested in more than one country is categorised as a global grant.
- Europe includes pan-European grants and grants made in the UK, Turkey and the Western Balkans.
- 'Asia regional' includes grants made in Indonesia, Japan, Nepal, South Asia and Asia as a whole, and excludes India or China.
- The vast majority of grants were reported in USD. Those that were not have been converted using a consistent exchange rate.

### Foundation funding

- To avoid double counting in the foundation funding data, where funding flowed from an endowed foundation to a project via a regranter, this funding was only counted under the regranter and not the endowed foundation. For example, where a grant was made by an endowed foundation to the Clean Air Fund, and then was regranted to a grantee, only the regranted amount has been included.
- The primary focus of foundation funders was determined through desk-based research and by information provided by the funders themselves. For foundations with multiple priorities, such as climate and health, their grant-making total was split equally across those priorities. For example, 50% of their funding would have been categorised as climate spend and 50% as health spend.
- All figures are best estimates based on available data and will be updated annually as new data becomes available. We welcome the input of new funders to improve the quality of the information (see page 19).

### Official Development Finance

- Data in the CRS and IATI databases are of varying quality and have broad project codes. Therefore, to ensure that data collection was comprehensive, a wide-ranging list of keywords and phrases were used to identify records that contained one or more of the specified keywords in either the project title, short description or long description. Each record was manually checked to remove any false positives (for example, if the project was wholly aimed at indoor air pollution) and to assign the strategic priority for each grant.
- To support comparisons with the philanthropic data, the analysis of Official Development Finance focusses predominantly on grants.

### DISCLAIMER

The designation of countries in this report does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Clean Air Fund concerning the legal status of any country. The analysis provided in this report is intended for informational purposes only.

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# CLEAN AIR FUND

Clean Air is a Human Right.

90% of the world's population – approximately 6.8 billion people – live in places where the air they breathe is damaging their health.

The issue is getting more urgent.

We believe in a world where everyone can breathe clean air.

Help us make it happen.

Interested in joining forces?

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