



Policy brief

January 2021

Introduction

As a fund manager for UK Aid Direct and UK Aid Match, MannionDaniels leads a consortium of organisations to oversee and guide the two funds on behalf of the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO).

Despite the **seismic impact that COVID-19** has had globally, MannionDaniels has adapted, and guided these two funds to continue to fulfil the UK government’s commitment to **‘leave no one behind’ in pursuit of the Global Goals.**

Working closely with grant holders, MannionDaniels has identified and addressed the pressing needs of the world’s most vulnerable populations without compromising the funds’ responsibility to deliver value for money.

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Examples of current grants working towards key Global Goals

Impact on the Global Goals

Before COVID-19, there had been systematic improvement against the Global Goals over the last 10 years. A **report** released by Every Woman Every Child highlighted the remarkable improvement in the health and well-being of the world's women, children and adolescents. Since 2000, more than one billion children have been vaccinated, maternal deaths have declined by 35 per cent and 25 million child marriages have been prevented.

However, this year's **Gates Foundation's Goalkeeper report** stated that there has been a significant regression and that this will continue without effective intervention. The repercussions are likely to be greater on women and girls. Already sexual violence has increased, and there has been a rise in teenage pregnancies, which impacts the ability of young women to access quality education.

Much of the portfolio managed by MannionDaniels includes projects specifically working with women and girls to mitigate the risk of further impact on their lives.

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UK Aid Match grant holder **World Child Cancer**

Looking to the future

Many believe that this is the opportunity to ‘build back better’, reversing the short-term damage caused by COVID-19 and to prevent longer-term consequences on the progress of the Global Goals.

Whilst lessons have been learnt from previous epidemics, such as Ebola, there is still much to be done to strengthen systems and organisations’ abilities to respond to crises, with better reporting, surveillance and data.

MannionDaniels is at the forefront of this, directly working with organisations to allow them to learn from each other’s past and current experiences to drive greater resilience and sustainability for the future.

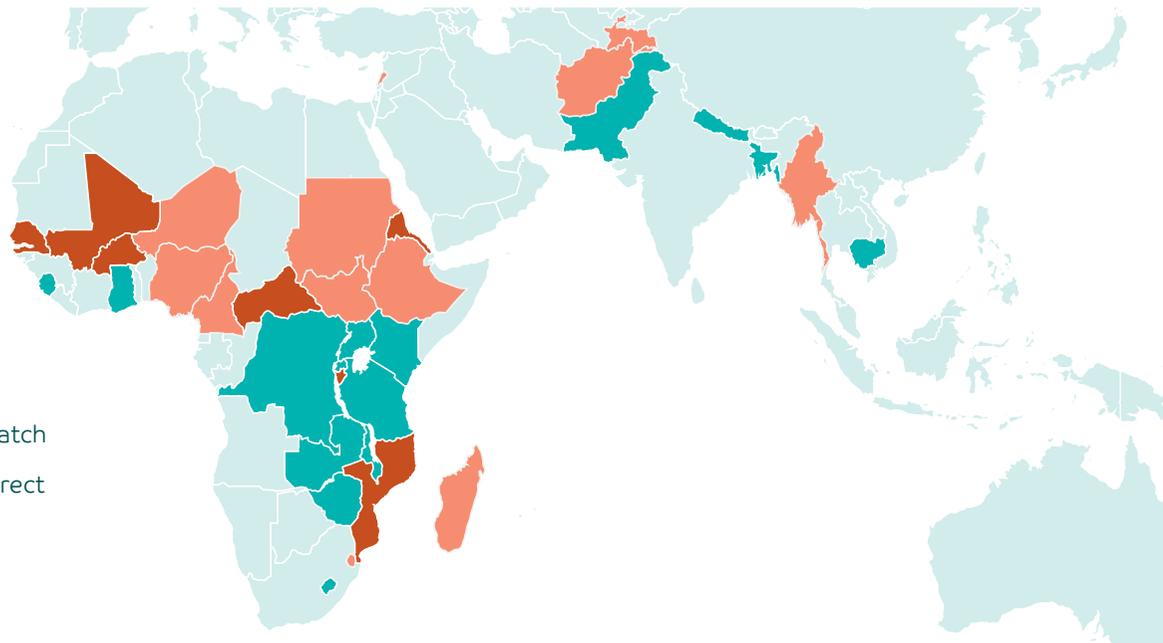
“MannionDaniels is at the forefront of this, directly working with organisations to allow them to learn from each other’s past and current experiences to drive greater resilience and sustainability for the future”



UK Aid Match grant holder **EMMS International**

How the funds have adapted

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the MannionDaniels-led consortium has worked closely with UK Aid Match and UK Aid Direct grant holders to adapt their projects to COVID-19 either by amending existing activities or pivoting to specifically respond to the pandemic. This has led to 147 projects in 32 countries adapting their approach. As well as one-to-one support, the funds' websites hosted dedicated COVID-19 resource pages, and **ran regular workshops for grant holders to share insights.**



UK Aid Match and UK Aid Direct are adapting 147 projects in 32 countries

33%
of funds
into

Global Goal

6



Clean
Water and
Sanitation

27%
of funds
into

Global Goal

3

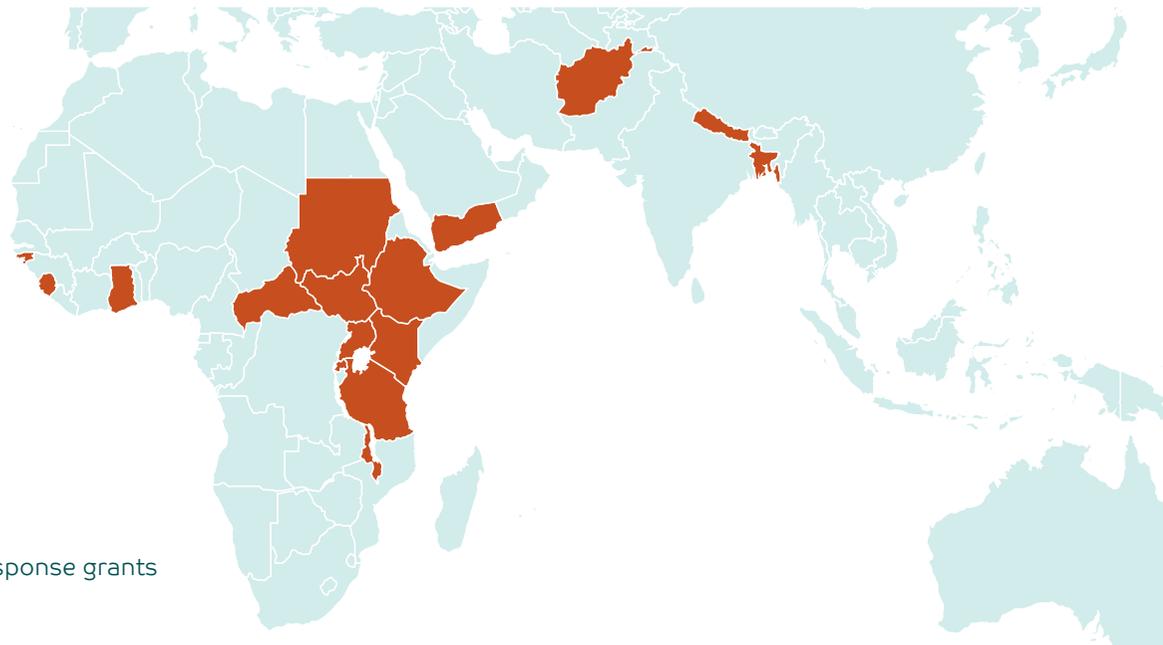


Good
Health and
Wellbeing

statistics accurate as of September 2020

The Rapid Response Fund

The Rapid Response Fund provides additional funding for current UK Aid Direct Community Partnership and Impact grant holders to scale up COVID-19 response activities in existing projects. The priority of the fund is to focus on preparedness, mitigation, and response to the primary impacts of the pandemic. Grants of up to £45,000 for Community Partnership grant holders and £200,000 for Impact grant holders are available to implement activities within a six-month period. 33 grants in 16 countries have now been approved.



 Rapid Response grants

Priorities of the fund

1. Respond to and prepare for neglected or under-funded needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Assist vulnerable groups that have not been previously identified or covered by existing funding.

3. Mitigate further spread or impact of COVID-19 by implementing early action and anticipatory activities.

Our virtual workshops

As a result of grant holder feedback, the MannionDaniels-led consortium put together a series of virtual workshops focused on COVID-19 for UK Aid Match and UK Aid Direct grant holders.

The workshops allowed grant holders to discuss issues and share best practice during the early stages of the pandemic.

Eight of these sessions were held over two months, with more than 400 attendees, 26.5% of whom were not UK-based. The ability for grant holders from across the globe to collaborate and converse directly during an international lockdown proved very popular. 96% of attendees said they found the series useful and 85% said they would use the knowledge gained to adapt and design future projects.

“The breakout sessions were useful ... it was easier to learn from one another, share experiences and ask questions”

Grant holder in **Zimbabwe**

“I was very dubious that it could work in a virtual setting but the breakout sessions were really effective”

Grant holder in **UK**

“The series has been very useful... helping me identify alternative ways of responding to community needs”

Grant holder in **Tanzania**

Working towards Global Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation

MannionDaniels has collaborated with UK aid grant holders to ensure the continued progression towards the Global Goals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

WaterAid - a UK Aid Match grant holder - was providing clean water access to rural communities in Mozambique and Sierra Leone. Working closely with the MannionDaniels team, the organisation switched its focus to reduce the risk of transmission through provision of hygiene kits and running hygiene behaviour change campaigns.

UK Aid Direct grant holder **Pump Aid** undertook a rapid assessment of essential WASH services for rural communities in Malawi. It was able to identify 300 community water points in need of repair. As a result, 45,000 people gained access to clean water.

Pump Aid said: “MannionDaniels has allowed us to pivot certain activities which would be difficult to undertake in current circumstances, we have used this opportunity to support the rapid repair of community water points.”

“MannionDaniels has allowed us to pivot certain activities which would be difficult to undertake in current circumstances”



Pump Aid describing its experience of working with MannionDaniels during the COVID-19 pandemic

Working towards Global Goal 10: Reduced inequalities

MannionDaniels has collaborated with UK aid grant holders to ensure the continued progression towards the Global Goals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

UK Aid Match grant holder **Opportunity International** has changed its project from providing financial support and training to rural women in Ghana and the Democratic Republic of Congo, to administering sanitisers and hygiene kits and raising awareness of COVID-19 prevention through radio broadcasts and messaging services.

Motivation, another UK Aid Match grant holder, was focused on supporting disabled job seekers to build their own livelihoods in Kenya. Motivation has now set-up remote support networks and provided much needed disability-specific guidance about the virus.

“When we are in Zoom meetings, we can all talk to each other and encourage each other. You feel like you’re not really alone. They have been holding us together and giving us enough support to move on [during the pandemic],” says Catherine, a beneficiary of Motivation’s ‘Ready, Willing and Able’ project in Kenya.

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Katherine, a beneficiary of one of **Motivation’s** UK Aid Match projects, explaining the importance of the organisation’s intervention in Kenya during the COVID-19 crisis.



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