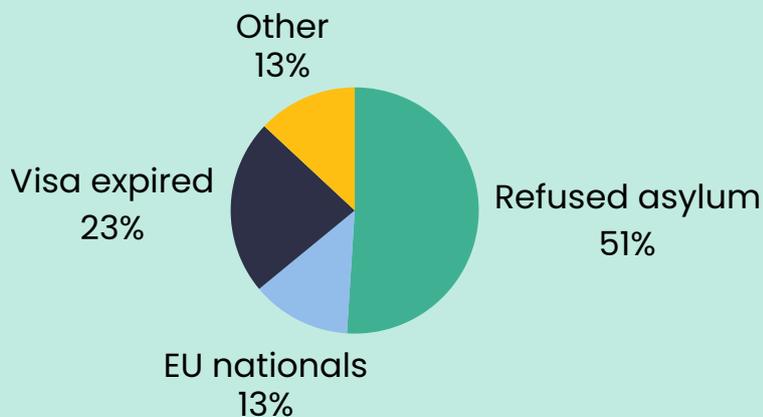


Grants programme

People forced into destitution have been supported to meet basic needs, improve wellbeing, and promote dignity. Over 2025:

- **1,350** grants were made
- **£133,070** was distributed
- **578** individuals were supported



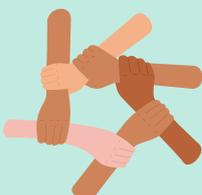
- **19%** were experiencing **street homelessness**
- **7%** were **older adults**
- **14%** had **children**

Feedback speaks of the difference the grants have made:

- **Improved physical health:** being able to buy food, warm clothing, medicines, sanitary products

"MDF means I can buy food I need to look after myself whilst I'm pregnant."

- **Dignity and reduced dependency:** being able to contribute to hosts' household expenses
- Phone credit and travel costs to stay in touch with support workers and lawyers, **enabling people to access their rights**
- Being in contact with friends and family - **reducing isolation and improving mental wellbeing**



"The money is important to buy things I need but the MDF also makes me feel like people are looking out for me, that I'm not alone. It means a lot to me."

129 applicants not accessing advice were signposted to essential support around immigration, housing and social care, enabling people to access the support they are entitled to.

"I would say that, the recommendations and signposting suggestions has been very helpful to WAST. ... The women are truly happy knowing that there is a place to turn to when they needed support." - Eunice, Women Asylum Seekers Together (WAST)

We spoke about our model and the power of unconditional cash grants at a panel hosted by the GM Mayors Charity: [Dignity, Agency, Choice](#).

"Hello MDF, I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for being there for me with the support you have provided. This made a huge difference, I felt worthy and confident in myself. I am able to rebuild my life again after being granted Refugee status."

Thanks to the reputation of our tried-and-tested model, in November 2025 we received a grant from the GM Combined Authority, to pilot a [new grants programme](#) for migrant care workers facing destitution after being failed by their visa sponsor, with grants both alleviating hardship and acting as an engagement tool to link people in with existing support services.

Partnerships



With more than 30 registered referral partners across Greater Manchester, ranging from refugee and migrant rights organisations to homeless centres to grassroots groups, we have sustained a community of mutual support and solidarity among frontline workers. In 2025, we have welcomed two new grassroots organisations to our referral network - [Break the Mute Ltd](#) and [Connect Talent CIO](#).

Understanding the challenges of working in this sector, we focus on process and connections as much as outcomes. It's been a privilege to build our relationships with partners through site visits and check in calls. We held two well-attended partnership events, with time for partners to

connect with each other and find peer support over home-cooked food from chefs from one of our partners. On our WhatsApp group, partners have shared information and updates, and reached out for support – as well as sharing community events, celebrations and positive news.

"We can grow together." – Feedback after our May partner event

Our partnership events have involved presentations about partners' services, and on what government policy announcements might mean for our communities, and what we can do about them. Amidst the increasingly hostile policy environment, our events have provided a space to decompress and share worries and fears. But we've also brainstormed about the positive changes we want to see – with the hopeful energy our partners have brought driving the development of our [#EndDestitution campaign](#).

Reposted by Migrant Destitution Fund GM



Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit (... @gmiau.bsky.so... · 9mo

Thank you @migrantfundgm.bsky.social for a much-needed space of solidarity and hope in Manchester yesterday.

We came together to discuss shared advocacy with a clear goal: ending destitution. Destitution must not be used as a weapon of immigration control.

One of the strengths of our network is the depth of grassroots expertise, which we have been proud to showcase – with Connect Talent CIO presenting about their amazing range of services at our partner event, and Equal Education Chances partnering with us in our work with families facing destitution.



"The financial lifeline [MDF] provides is incredibly important for day

to day survival of people with NRPF, but what we at GMIAU see as the real benefit from the MDF is the way they have connected and supported very grassroots organisations across Greater Manchester on a way that no other organisation or partnership has been able to previously.” - Maria, GMIAU

Building a world without destitution

“We are human like you: hear us.” - MDF spokesperson quoted in our [#EndDestitution](#) campaign

Despite the deteriorating policy environment, we have held onto our vision of a world without destitution, and have been building a team of spokespeople who wish to speak out against destitution. Over 2025, we’ve drawn on the expertise of our partners and spokespeople to build and mobilise support for a campaign to [#EndDestitution](#), which we launched in January 2026.

While still advancing our positive vision, MDF has spoken out publicly to combat hostile government rhetoric and policy. In December, we published [an explainer](#) about how the government’s latest plans around immigration and asylum will dramatically increase destitution in our communities.

“Hostility manufactured by policy and language does its best to dehumanise, alienate, divide – to turn us into strangers. We refuse to allow this. We are committed to building an island of compassion, unconditional solidarity, kindness and friendship, our lives and communities enriched by our connections with one another.” - MDF quoted in [Manchester World](#) article responding to the PM’s ‘island of strangers’ speech

We have deployed our strategic relationships to ensure our evidence base and the voices of those experiencing destitution, and of our partners, are considered in regional policy discussions. We have participated in voluntary sector and local government workshops on migrant homelessness. We have also been part of the implementation group for the [GM Living Income](#) campaign, ensuring that any living

income pilot will include people with no recourse to public funds. At a national level, we have collaborated with IPPR on research into child poverty and into migrant homelessness.

We have continued to work locally to improve responses to destitution in Greater Manchester. Our [community consultation](#) with destitute families highlighted the intense levels of fear about accessing statutory support.

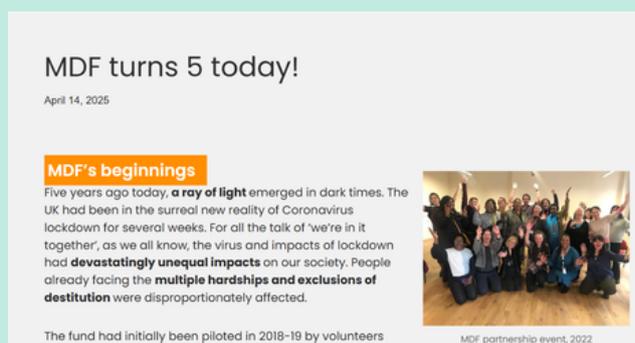
“Social services say they will consult with the Home Office. That makes people afraid. When you read the letter and see Home Office, you cancel that letter.” - Community consultation participant

Through this event, some of the most marginalised people in our communities had their voices listened to and amplified, with findings shared with local policymakers and researchers. Follow up has included an information session from Right to Remain, GMIAU and Patients Not Passports - directly responding to the asks of participants in the consultation event. For wider impact, we have informed a Patients Not Passports toolkit about healthcare entitlements, and we are working with GMIAU to create a resource to ensure communities are informed with transparent information about entitlements and risks regarding approaching social services for support.

Organisational

On 14th April 2025, we celebrated MDF's [5th birthday](#). It was a moment of mixed emotions: it was a fund that shouldn't have had to exist when it launched in 2020; that it should be needed more than ever half a decade on speaks of the ongoing - and worsening - hostility of the laws and policies surrounding migration. But it was also a moment to celebrate what we have achieved over the last five years - with more than 4000 grants distributed, a thriving network of referral partners, and a vision advanced of a world without destitution.

In March, we recruited a second part-time post, which was ring-fenced for someone with lived experience, to build our capacity to amplify the



voices of those impacted by destitution.

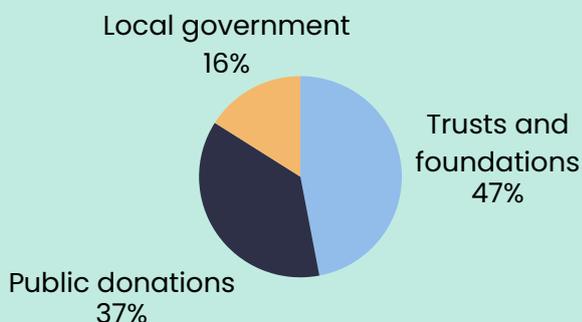
Our fifth birthday was also a moment to consolidate our unique model – we developed our [theory of change](#), as well as a [visualisation](#) of how our different strands of work support one another.

Thank you to the many people and organisations that have made all this work possible, including:

- **Our partner organisations** – who stand alongside those facing destitution, providing welcome, advice, support and solidarity;
- **Our funders**, including trusts and foundations, and private donors – whose generosity allows us to keep the fund open. Many funders are unwilling to fund cash grants, so we are immensely appreciative of the flexibility and understanding of all those who can see the dignity and choice that cash can bring;
- **Manchester Community Central** (Macc), which has hosted MDF since the start, processing the grant payments, providing organisational stability, and employing our two paid posts;
- Our team of 10 committed volunteers who bring a range of skills and experience, including lived experience, to the **Migration and Destitution Action Group**, which oversees the MDF and defines our strategic objectives.

Finances January–December 2025

Income:
£128,663



Expenditure:
£181,411

