

2010 ANNUAL RETREAT

Looking Back Building Forward Lessons, Insights Strategies

Hamilton Park Hotel and Conference Center Florham Park, New Jersey March 22-24, 2010

SUMMARY REPORT



Africa Grantmakers' Affinity Group

1776 I Street, NW Suite 900 Washington, DC 20006 Telephone: 202-756-4835

General inquiries: info@africagrantmakers.org

Niamani Mutima, Executive Director
Talaya Grimes, Communications and Program Manager

© Tides Center/Africa Grantmakers' Affinity Group. All Rights Reserved

The Africa Grantmakers' Affinity Group is a project of the Tides Center.

The Africa Grantmakers' Affinity Group (AGAG) is a membership network of grantmakers that are currently funding in Africa or are interested in funding in Africa. It was established as a forum where grantmakers can come together as a learning community to share information and work together.

The mission of AGAG is to promote increased and more effective funding in Africa through building and sharing knowledge. Membership is open to both new and experienced grantmakers that meet the membership requirements of the Council on Foundations, but membership in the Council on Foundations is not a prerequisite for membership in AGAG.

AGAG membership services include an active listserv of grantmakers, an annual meeting and organized in person and virtual meetings on current issues relevant to the work of Africa grantmaking and grantmakers. AGAG conducts specialized research on foundation funding in Africa. The website features a searchable database of the geographic and topics interest areas of current AGAG members.

For more information, please visit the website at www.africagrantmakers.org

For more copies of this report, please contact info@africagrantmakers.org

Credits

Retreat Rapporteur: Sheliah M. Louis

Editing: Niamani Mutima and Laura Sutherland

Graphic Design/Layout: Marianne Wyllie

AGAG thanks the following sources for permission to use the photos in this publication:

ХX

ХX

ХX



AGAG 2010 Annual Retreat Summary Report

NTRODUCTION

HE AFRICA GRANTMAKERS AFFINITY GROUP (AGAG) is a network of funders working to promote increased and more effective funding in Africa through building and sharing knowledge about the Africa grantmaking experience. Each year AGAG organizes a Retreat. The purpose of this event is for its members and other colleagues in the field to come together to connect, learn and share with each other about issues of common interest.



Under the theme, "Looking Back/Building Forward: Lessons, Insights and Strategies," the agenda included a mix of timely and relevant topics, interactive sessions and opportunities for networking. Fifty participants, representing thirty-three funders from Africa, Europe and North America, attended the 2010 Retreat. This diverse group included donor-advised funds, public charities and private, independent and family foundations.

The Retreat has become an annual mainstay program of AGAG, in part, due to the response from AGAG members who have affirmed the positive value it brings to the field. AGAG provides this unique opportunity for grantmakers who are funding in Africa to learn strategies from each other to improve the effectiveness of their grantmaking and to be better partners to the organizations they support.

This summary report provides only a "flavor" of the topics and ideas that emerged from the main plenary sessions. There were many more that emerged from the more intimate conversations and discussions that took place in the member organized and informal networking sessions and over meal and breaks. The main purpose of the Annual Retreat is to create a "safe space" where colleagues can connect with each other in a professionally supportive environment. Often the most important and useful conversations at the Retreat are impromptu ones.

This Retreat marked the tenth anniversary of the Africa Grantmakers' Affinity Group. Over the past decade, this idea of a forum for Africa grantmakers has grown into a strong network that continues to expand and respond to changes in Africa and in philanthropy.

I hope you will plan to join us next year!

Niamani Mutima **Executive Director**

PLENARY SESSION ONE Reflections on Changes in Philanthropy and in Africa

Niamani Mutima, Executive Director of AGAG, welcomed the group, noting that this Retreat marked a very special and important milestone as the tenth anniversary of the organization. She presented a snapshot of changes in philanthropy support to Africa over the past ten years to provide a context for the discussions to follow.

Her presentation began with emphasizing the size, diversity, wealth and global importance of the African continent and its resources. Drawing from information available from the Foundation Center, she used the following points to highlight funding trends:

- Only eight organizations based in Africa were among the top 50 non-U.S. recipients of grants from 2000–2007;
- In terms of giving, in 2002 Africa ranked 4th of all continents receiving funding and most of the funding was in the areas of and infectious diseases (HIV/AIDS and malaria);
- Most of the 17% of international giving that went to Africa in 2002 went to organizations based in the United States;
- From 2003 2009, South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Uganda and Ethiopia were the key countries that have received funding; and
- The increase in funding for Africa is largely due to the funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation.

The data illustrates where funding has been primarily focused and which countries receive support. There are many African countries that receive little or no support. Niamani noted that reflection provides an opportunity for change, particularly since the data illustrates that funding for Africa remains a small niche within the total international funding by U.S. funders.

Niamani introduced the following speakers: **Yvonne Moore**, Executive Director of the Daphne Foundation; **Muadi Mukenge**, Director for Sub-Sahara Africa of the Global Fund for Women; and **Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi**, Executive Director of the African Women's Development Fund, all of whom highlighted new initiatives and approaches to grantmaking in Africa.

Yvonne Moore described the work of the Daphne Foundation, which primarily funds poverty programs in New York City, but now also funds in Liberia.

She presented demographic data on Liberia, including information on population and migration in the country. The Liberia Poverty Reduction Strategy is an example of how the country has designed a roadmap for success that can be labeled "bottoms up" because it reflects the input of all its citizens from the grassroots to government. The Daphne Foundation was one of nineteen funders committed to play



a role in helping the country rebuild by coordinating efforts of their investments to support Liberia's reform agenda. Part of that role included funding the Philanthropy Secretariat, a formal agency housed within the government as a ministry without portfolio. Its mission is to engage philanthropic actors and inform them about how to effectively engage with Liberia's government officials and other partners.

Ms. Moore emphasized that communication and collaborative efforts, rather than a monetary commitment, have been important aspects of her efforts. Having the support of the President of Liberia has led to willingness by smaller funders to make grants.

The Daphne Foundation has been constructive in coordinating meetings that resulted in smaller funders leveraging their grants with larger actors. She spoke about the nuance of spontaneous giving from prospective donors and that some giving can be based on emotion once learning about Liberia's needs. A web-based tool has been developed that tracks incoming funds and acknowledges funders, which provides useful information for prospective grantmakers.

While the three-year plan that established the Secretariat will end in 2011, the Liberian government and the Daphne Foundation are currently gathering information, seeking feedback and evaluating methods to develop a plan to ensure the Secretariat's sustainability so that it can continue to interface directly with funders and serve as the primary resource for those seeking to identify funding areas and needs in Liberia.



Muadi Mukenge elaborated on the study conducted by the Global Fund for Women (GFW) on their support of women in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

To set the context, she highlighted the following issues important to understanding grantmaking in the DRC. First, funding in French-speaking countries in Africa has not been very transformative because most initiatives were operating through the old vestiges of French influence, and this happened especially in the eastern part of the DRC. Secondly, eight years of civil war has created a hands-off, wait-and-see approach by both public and private funders.

She noted that those seeking to fund women's social issues must be clear that funding women represents a shift in power relations. When funding women's projects, a funder is not simply transforming inequities in gender relations, but is providing opportunities for women to become stronger at the national level. Raising the voice of women affects how the government relates bilaterally and how it uses its military within its own society. Specifically, in the DRC, it also gives women a voice in the important mining industry; so funding women in the DRC is ultimately advocating and supporting a social movement.



Those you seek to assist must be participants in the grantmaking planning process.

In discussing the study, she emphasized how important it is to go directly to those who will be utilizing the funding to collect information firsthand and to include their input. The study highlights that those you seek to assist—in this case women—must be participants in the grantmaking planning process. Funders need to be more concerned about the information they receive and they cannot afford to be lazy and abide by second-hand information. She strongly encouraged funders to seek to understand and include past history in the funding process even if that means linking up with grassroots organizations to get a clear understanding of the dynamics of the local society. It is important for those seeking to fund in the DRC, or to fund women, to have a holistic, well-diversified agenda.

The study showed that local women's organizations need funding support for general operating expenses rather than project funding that does not lend itself to furthering their own established actions and efforts. As a result, the GFW has made many flexible grants that allow local groups to prioritize their own needs. The study has improved their relationship with the local human rights groups and created relationships with other local grassroots organizations, giving GFW a presence on the ground they did not have before. The data collected has been useful to everyone and provided invaluable information, particularly on prior national history, that is so desperately needed to make well-informed decisions on whether to fund a local group or not. She encouraged funders to take a more democratic approach to funding in the DRC and look beyond the mining conglomerates, the media and industry reports to research and confirm information themselves.



Bisi Adeleye Fayemi spoke in her position as Chair of the Steering Committee of the Grantmakers Network (AGN) currently located in Dakar, Senegal.

The AGN was launched in 2009 as an organization that seeks to become a collective voice for African grantmakers who want to fund on the African continent. She indicated that members of the AGN have been charged with filling a void to support the rich tradition of African funders.

AGN provides an alternative resource for African investors seeking to fund in their own continent without having to go to U.S. or European-based foundations. African funders, who are part of this new model, have been asked to be active in three ways: I) be a credible voice in supporting an African-based agenda; 2) fortify the strong tradition of African philanthropy; and 3) create effective networks that will increase investments in Africa.

She explained that the Network has a vision to serve as an institution that can mentor the next generation of civil-society political leaders unaccustomed to engaging the foundation community. It plans to utilize its cross-sections of members to create best practices and increased partnerships for the future.

The Network is planning to hold its first General Assembly in November 2010 in Nairobi, Kenya where it will bring together all its members for the first time since its creation. She hopes that such a meeting will provide the opportunity for a collection of local funding information continent-wide. AGN is currently conducting a membership campaign.



PLENARY SESSION TWO

The Impact of Direct and Indirect Funding on Building Capacity: **Key Findings from the AGAG Study**

Andrea Johnson, Program Officer for the Carnegie Corporation of New York, opened the session by explaining the impetus for this study. It was a follow-up to the previous study AGAG conducted on "Funding for Health and Basic Education Programs for Children and Youth in Southern Africa." The findings from that study prompted an inquiry into the impact of funding received directly from a funder or indirectly through intermediaries on the capacity-building efforts of African-headquartered organizations (AHOs).

Jennifer Astone, the philanthropic consultant hired by AGAG to interview the staff of foundations, intermediary organizations and organizations headquartered in Africa, presented the preliminary findings of this yearlong study.

Ms. Astone discussed the parameters (that included a definitions sheet) and methodology of the study before describing some of its findings. In essence, the study's data supports the claim that the type of funding support received influences the ability of an Africa-headquartered organization (AHO) to develop its capacity.

Some of the preliminary findings showed that:

- while there was a basic agreement on the definition of capacity, each group added other aspects to the basic definition that they felt were important as well in defining capacity; with each group placing a different emphasis on those aspects they felt were most important;
- AHOs most valued direct funding because it presented the opportunity to develop a relationship with the funder which more often resulted in more general support. Indirect funding received through intermediary organizations was valued for the technical assistance and networking opportunities these organizations provided;

AHOs valued direct funding for the opportunity to develop a relationship with the funder which more often resulted in more general support. **Indirect funding received through** intermediary organizations was valued for the technical assistance and networking opportunities these organizations provided.

- the funding environment is dominated by project-based grants and contracts, which have emerged as great impediments to building capacity;
- foundations in the study with budgets of less than \$5 million more often funded AHOs directly and favored small grants;
- foundations in the study with budgets of more than \$10 million used both direct and indirect funding methods.

Communications emerged as a challenge as most AHOs had little contact with foundations because funding from foundations comprise a small part of the funding portfolio of AHOs.

One of the nuances of the study was how foundations perceived or categorized themselves philosophically or defined themselves based upon the type of entities they fund. It was also noted that participants were more willing to speak candidly and share anecdotes under conditions of anonymity.

The study explored why funders use one method or the other, uncovering a variety of reasons, such as legal restrictions, lack of foundation capacity to monitor at a distance or being dependent on intermediary organizations to provide technical assistance. Further, it uncovered that while most funders do have the flexibility to fund either way, the majority of funders use one method over the other, not switching or mixing the two. A key question in regards to capacity building is whether funders are more concerned with completing a project or with helping to build a strong organization that is accomplishing what the field needs.

Communications emerged as a challenge as most AHOs have little contact with foundations because funding from foundations comprise a small part of the funding portfolio of AHOs. Consequently, they are not familiar with how foundations operate so often they struggle with how to communicate their needs when seeking funding or negotiating grant agreements.

PLENARY SESSION THREE The Future of Agriculture in Africa

Sarah Hobson, Executive Director of New Field Foundation, moderated this plenary session. She challenged the group to see the urgency of the issues in agriculture in Africa through the eyes of Africans. She outlined how agricultural development has become a very complex field to navigate due to many interlocking parts, such as the recent financial crisis, food shortages, the politics of climate change and most recently "land-grabbing." She remarked that the current debates on these topics are very divisive and made even more complex and confusing by the introduction of contributing factors such as biodiversity, biotechnology, land ownership and food security. She introduced speakers **Hans Herren,** President of the Millennium Institute, and **Mouhamadou Tidiane Kasse,** French Editor of Pambazuka News.

Hans Herren gave an in-depth presentation on the key findings of the International Assessment of Agriculture Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (ISTAD) and the regional sub-report on Africa. Beginning with the work of the ISTAD, Herren highlighted the transparency and credibility of the global study and some of the obstacles encountered during and after its completion. According to Herren, the assessment sought answers to how nations can improve rural livelihoods, nutrition and health while creating sustainable agricultural output.

He described how agriculture was taken for granted and how food production decreased due to lack of adequate investment. Consequently, Africa now imports food. Fertilizers are contributing to more than 30% of greenhouse gases and increased populations are placing stress on the land at a time when more land is needed for agricultural production. Natural resources will shrink with building on all available land, resulting in problems with water and energy, which are the foundation of modern agriculture.



He noted that agriculture cannot be researched in a vacuum. There is a real need for leaders to evaluate alternative scenarios that can produce sustainable results, as well as mitigate the negative impact on poor people. New technology and new research are clearly needed to reduce hunger and poverty. Agricultural systems need to take a systematic view and become multifunctional. There are economic models that can help in assessing such impacts. The Millennium Institute seeks to support the findings of the study by training leaders on how to use tools that show the vastly different sectors and relationships in a single framework. Therefore, countries will be able to visualize how different factors impact each other and therefore make better decisions to address their individual challenges.

He enumerated the following items for possible action:

- Empower and involve small-scale family farmers;
- Improve knowledge-sharing among all the actors;
- Restore and manage the current eco-systems differently;
- Improve and invest in agricultural science research centers;
- Realize that the role of modern biotechnology is currently very limited;
- Continue to invest in local infrastructure; and
- Research long-term food consumption needs, patterns and effects on bilateral trade.

While creating transitions to improve agricultural methods of farming will create costs, the data shows there is no future in this current process for Africa. Therefore, there is an urgent need to think about how one transitions into a new type of agriculture that can be sustainable.



Mouhamadou Tidiane Kasse began his presentation by outlining the many attempts by African countries to address the food crisis. Africa has proven that it can produce; however, it is the lack of infrastructure and inconsistent government policies that are causing a weak agricultural industry in Africa.

He gave examples of countries, such as Malawi and Senegal, that have spent millions from their budgets to finance imports of fertilizer, seed and other agricultural goods. Regional organizations such as the African Development Bank (ADB) have made radical investments to feed poor countries, and yet many African countries still import staples, such as rice. The ADB predicts that by 2015, Africa will only be able to provide enough food for half of its population and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) predicts Africa will need to import millions of tons of food in the future.

He gave examples of how confusing and inconsistent government policies have weakened agricultural production by subsidizing agricultural products and simultaneously installing custom duties. Africa agricultural production is further strained by many short-term agreements and partnerships created



to establish trade. The long-term issues affecting agricultural production include the ravages of climate change and more recently, "land grabbing." China, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Japan all have leased land in African countries that is used primarily for private foreign export and could otherwise be used for Africa's own food security.

Funders can help by funding family farmers to organize and get training to advocate for government support. He also noted that women, who make up 60-80% of the labor, also play a substantial role in building the future of agriculture in Africa.

CLOSING PLENARYLooking to the Future

Ezra Mbogori, Executive Director of Akiba Uhaki, the Human Rights and Social Justice Fund, was the guest speaker at the closing luncheon plenary session.

Mr. Mbogori opened with some observations on the past before looking to the future.

In spite of the many successes on the continent, Africa is still battling poverty. There are many Africans who are living with HIV/AIDS and this has affected the perceptions and attitudes of people across sectors with implications for the future. There have been many occasions where regional cooperation against poverty has been launched, but in spite of this and many dollars later, Africa is still confronted by the same challenges as its post-independence leaders.

While acknowledging that many areas in Africa are evolving, he questioned whether such evolution would be in a positive collaborative fashion so that a new generation of youth can be supported and uplifted to bring on meaningful and sustainable change. The future of Africa will be created by Africa's ability to create new civil society leaders who are respected for their humanity and their politics, can comfortably bridge the old and the new, see the value in peaceful collaborations and are willing to accept and be held accountable for the progress of civil society. That said, the question now becomes what is the role for those currently working in the field — including both those watching, advocating, educating and encouraging the learning of new sciences and technology and those who are holding on to African cultures and traditions for the benefit of the future? Who is going to determine what that future looks like?

He expressed concern for the future leaders in Africa. While the political culture is evolving and has transformed from a one-party system to a seemingly democratic multiparty system, corruption still pervades and the will of civil society is still being suppressed. In the future, the political culture must change and recognize the needs of civil society first. He elaborated on the need for a new generation of leaders who are willing and able to claim their future by making positive changes and progress toward African development. The future leaders of Africa must be able see themselves building their own future with their own energy.



AGENDA

March 22	MONDAY
6:00 — 7:00 PM	Reception
7:00 — 9:00 PM	Opening Dinner
March 23	TUESDAY
8:00 - 9:00 AM	Breakfast
Dining Room	Special Orientation Breakfast for first time participants
9:00 - 10:30 AM	Reflections on Changes in Philanthropy and in Africa
Opening Plenary 2	Speakers: Niamani Mutima, Executive Director, AGAG Yvonne Moore, Executive Director, Daphne Foundation Muade Mukenge, Director for Africa, Global Fund for Women Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi, Executive Director, African Women's Development Fund
10:30 – 11:00 AM	Break
11:00 AM — 12:30 PM Plenary	The Impact of Direct and Indirect Funding on Building Capacity: Key Finding from the AGAG Study
	Moderator: Andrea Johnson, Carnegie Corporation of New York
	Presenter: Jennifer Astone, International Development Consultant
12:30 – 2:00 PM Dining Room	Lunch
2:00 — 3:30 PM	Concurrent Sessions A
	Transformation Information & Communications Technology in African Higher Education
	Supporting the Agency of Rural Women in Africa
	Open Space (time for spontaneous sessions organized by participants)
3:30 - 4:00 PM	Break
4:00 - 5:30 PM	Concurrent Sessions B
	Promoting GBLT Rights as Human Rights
	Resource Mobilization as Entry Point to Transform an Organization
	Open Space (time for spontaneous sessions organized by participants)
7:30 – 9 PM Dining Room	Dinner

March 24 WEDNESDAY

8:00 – 9:00 AM Breakfast Dining Room

9:00 – 10: 30 AM The Future of Agriculture in Africa

Plenary

Moderator: Sarah Hobson, Executive Director, New Field Foundation

Speakers: Hans Herren, President, Millennium Institute

Mouhamadou Tidiane Kassé, French Editor,

Pambazuka New

10:30 – 10:45 AM Break

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM Concurrent Sessions C

The Role of the Corporate/Business Sector in Philanthropy

Livelihoods: Bridging the Gap Between Skills Provision

& Economic Transformation

Open Space (time for spontaneous sessions organized by participants)

Closing Luncheon 12:30 – 2:00 PM

Looking to the Future

Speaker: Ezra Mbogori, Executive Director

Akiba Uhaki, The Human Rights and Social Justice Fund



PARTICIPANTS

Brian Abelson

Assistant Program Officer
The Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation

Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi

Executive Director
African Women's Development Fund

Akwasi Aidoo

Executive Director
TrustAfrica

Chris Allan

Program Consultant Global Greengrants Fund

Mike Annison

Foundations Manager Christian Aid

Doug Balfour

Chief Executive Officer Geneva Global

Rajasvini Bhansali

Executive Director
International Development Exchange

Ahadi Bugg-Levine

Fellow

Atlantic Philanthropies

Elizabeth Chadri

Program Officer, Conservation and Sustainable Development John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

John Chettleborough

Corporate Partnerships Manager, Africa Division Christian Aid

Christine Coleman

Director of Communications
Tides Foundation

Raoul Davion

Co-Chair, Higher Education in Africa Initiative Global Security and Sustainability John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

Ellen Dorsey

Executive Director
Wallace Global Fund

Andy Flynn

Executive Director, International Programs MAC AIDS Fund

Tamara Fox

Senior Director, Research M&E ELMA Philanthropies

Claudia Frittelli

Program Officer, Higher Education and Libraries in Africa Carnegie Corporation of New York

Nicole Genereux

Senior Partnership Officer, Donors Partnerships Division International Development Research Centre

Sarah Grapentine

Program Associate, Global Partnerships Trinity Wall Street

Ashley Green-Thompson

Grants Manager, Grants Facility
Southern Africa Trust

Sarah Gunther

Senior Program Officer
American Jewish World Service

Shupikai Gwabuya

Grants Officer, Grants Facility
Southern Africa Trust

Sahlu Haile

Regional Advisor - Sub Saharan Africa
Population and Reproductive Health
David and Lucile Packard Foundation

Richard Hall

Programme Coordinator
International Foundation for Science

Sarah Hobson

Executive Director
New Field Foundation

Maggie Jazurel

Communciations Officer
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

Andrea Johnson

Program Officer, Higher Education and Libraries in Africa Carnegie Corporation of New York

Renee Joslyn

Senior Philanthropic Advisor Tides Foundation

Solome Lemma

Senior Program Officer, Africa and the Middle East Global Fund for Children

Ezra Mbogori

Executive Director Akiba Uhaki

Milena Mikael-Debass

Program Associate, Africa Global Fund for Children

Yvonne Moore

Executive Director

Daphne Foundation

William Moses

Program Director, Education The Kresge Foundation

Muadi Mukenge

Program Director for Sub-Saharan Africa Global Fund for Women

Benjamin Musoke-Lubega

Program Officer, Grants
Trinity Church Wall Street

Tabara Ndiaye

Program Consultant
New Field Foundation

David Pain

Head of Africa Division Christian Aid

Anne C. Petersen

Founder and President Global Philanthropy Alliance

Cynthia Ryan

Principal
Schooner Foundation

Tom Sargent

Board President
New Field Foundation

Zanele Sibanda

Director of Programs
Firelight Foundation

Frederica Stines

Program Officer, Africa International Women's Health Coalition

Tony Tate

Program Officer
Unbound Philanthropy

Kathryn Toure

Regional Director, West and Central Africa Regional Office International Development Research Centre

John Weiler

Senior Program Officer F.B. Heron Foundation

Gitta Zomorodi

Program Associate, Grants
American Jewish World Service

STAFF

Niamani Mutima, Executive Director
Talaya Grimes, Communications and Program Manager
Sheilah M. Louis, Rapporteur (Consultant)





Africa Grantmakers' Affinity Group

1776 I Street, NW Suite 900 Washington, DC 20006 Telephone: 202-756-4835

General inquiries: info@africagrantmakers.org

© Tides Center/Africa Grantmakers' Affinity Group. All Rights Reserved