



2014 Africa Grantmakers' Affinity Group Conference

March 18-20, 2014
New York, NY

Funding in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities



Africa is a vibrant, dynamic and important continent. It is larger than China, Europe, India, Japan and the United States combined and it has more than 60% of the world's arable land and a wealth of natural resources. Advances in telecommunications have increased the access to and use of mobile technology and economic growth has created a middle class that is projected to increase consumer spending to more than \$2 trillion by 2030. All of these factors present tremendous opportunities for positive change and social equity.

But accompanying these dynamic and impressive gains are also many obstacles facing African communities. Africa has not escaped the heightened security concerns from terrorist threats both inside and outside of national borders or increases in economic inequality. Governments strain to provide adequate services and respond to the high rate of unemployment among the young who are now 60% of the Continent's total population. Now, more than ever, effective, robust and responsive philanthropy is needed to leverage these opportunities and address these challenges.

The Africa Grantmakers' Affinity Group (AGAG) is a diverse network of funders with different interests and approaches but a shared vision of a world where African communities achieve their full potential. We serve as a trusted resource for people who make grants and fund projects by helping them to deepen their understanding and knowledge of current trends and to build strong professional networks. Through our conferences and webinars, research, publications, and digital communications we bring together people who want to maximize the impact of their funding and become more effective grantmakers.

In March 2014 we invited funders interested in Africa to New York to attend our annual conference on "Funding in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities." This report gives a flavor of the topics discussed and highlights from the presentations.

The Africa Grantmakers' Affinity Group brings together people who want to maximize the impact of the funding they provide to African communities. We help funders connect and learn from one another so that they can become more effective grantmakers.

Our vision is a world where African communities achieve their full potential. Our mission is to promote effective, robust and responsive philanthropy benefiting African communities.

Special thanks to our Conference Rapporteur - Phil Arkow, IDEAS

Introduction

Participants from seven countries on three continents attended the conference on “Funding in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities.” The first day focused on the cross cutting topics of the role of art in social change, trends in philanthropy to Africa and exit strategies. The second day offered a menu of specific topics and case study presentations about different funding strategies. Designed to be intimate and interactive, the conference provided a unique opportunity for funders to build a sense of community and shared commitment to funding in Africa while understanding the urgency in leveraging opportunities and addressing challenges facing African communities.

As in previous years, the conference was a highly participatory space. The agenda included both crosscutting and specific topics with content that reflected current practices and approaches. The participants left with a deeper understanding of how diverse funding strategies can leverage impact and a renewed vigor from re-energizing their networks.

But the rich discussions, quality content, and participant engagement was not the only reason why it was one of most exciting AGAG conferences ever. It also marked the launch of AGAG’s new strategic plan that included a new mission and vision. Additionally, Sarah Hobson of the New Field Foundation and Vuyiswa Sidzumo were introduced as the new Steering Committee co-chairs to guide the new plan’s implementation. Finally, we also decided to “go green” and reduce paper. Participants were able to view the conference program on their smart media using an app and view resources posted online.

A special thanks goes to the speakers, session organizers and case study presenters. We also acknowledge and thank Philanthropy New York and the Ford, Issroff and Segal Foundations for hosting three wonderful receptions that provided a relaxed atmosphere conducive to networking and strengthening professional relationships between familiar and new colleagues.

The conference also had a poignant tone, coming so closely upon the death of Nelson Mandela. AGAG grew out of the South Africa Grantmakers’ Affinity Group (SAGAG), which was active in the 1980s and 1990. SAGAG worked to galvanize support for anti-apartheid efforts in Southern Africa. During the conference participants were urged to re-dedicate themselves to the principles of social justice by which this great philanthropist, freedom fighter and statesman lived and worked and keep the momentum of philanthropy to Africa moving forward.

Niamani Mutima
Executive Director
Africa Grantmakers’ Affinity Group

Plenary Sessions

Plenary sessions take a “big picture” view of funding in Africa and focus on current trends and crosscutting topics relevant to the work of all funders working in Africa. They provide an opportunity to identify both the shared interests and different perspectives of colleagues working in the field.

Art, Philanthropy and Africa

The Conference’s opening session on “**Art, Philanthropy and Africa**” highlighted how art, in its many forms, serves as an engine and mirror of social and political trends. This session framed art as

“Most people who think about art in Africa think about so-called traditional art, but they overlook the opportunity to see contemporary art – what the artists are telling us now.”

not only an aesthetic enrichment of a community’s soul and expression of its ever-changing cultures, but also as a motivator for and a reflection of social change. Panelists described ways to infuse art in grantmaking as an integral component of social justice instead of compartmentalizing it on the periphery of philanthropic concern.

Marcia Thomas, Executive Director of United

Support of Artists for Africa (USA for Africa) opened the session by saying that the arts are an excellent tool for people to use to voice their opinion and around the world African artists are actively using their tools and platforms to drive social change. USA for Africa was established to distribute the funds generated from the song, “We Are the World” recorded in 1985 to highlight the needs of Africa and Africans. This collective effort illuminates the convergence of art, philanthropy and Africa. It represented how artists utilized the power of music to promote philanthropy and social justice.

Still in operation 30 years later, in 2013 USA for Africa launched a two-year initiative called “Pay It Forward.” This initiative encourages young people to understand that if someone aided their success, they have a responsibility to “pay it forward” and help someone else. It teaches youth that they can contribute to the changes they wish to see and make things happen even through small actions.

As part of “Pay It Forward” USA for Africa commissioned a four-part essay series exploring the “**Power of Art**” and the role that the arts have played, and continue to play, in African society. The series reveals the pivotal role of the arts in shaping the past, present and future of the Continent.

Thomas introduced **Dr. Omi Osun Joni Jones, Associate Professor of African and African Diaspora Studies at the University of Texas** who is the author of the USA for Africa “Power of Art” essay series.

Jones discussed the first essay, “Art as Action.” She encouraged participants to think of the arts as not just supporting social change but also as being social change. Artistic expression makes people and nations change. “Most people who think about art in Africa think about so-called traditional art, but they overlook the opportunity to see contemporary art – what the artists are telling us now,” she said.

“Artists are often at the vanguard of telling us what lies ahead. By paying attention to them we may be able to see what’s ahead. If art weren’t powerful, it wouldn’t be necessary for so many governments to periodically silence the artistic truth-tellers.”

Art’s ubiquity makes it a vehicle for change that cuts across all philanthropic concerns. Whether through photography, textiles, cinema, basketry, adornment, painting, cabinetry, theater, or gardens, art pervades our everyday activities. Art is more than just stages, theaters and museums: it’s a driver of economies and a generator of jobs. The arts can create an environment of entrepreneurship and capital development, and fight the “brain drain” of young people leaving Africa for greater economic opportunities elsewhere. Art shows us a joyful Africa rather than an Africa plagued by war, famine and need.

The skills employed by artists are the same as those necessary to achieve social change, she said. Staging a performance or an exhibition requires cooperation, organization, and improvisation – the same techniques needed to create alternative governmental structures, community collaborations or initiatives that balance competing interests. “Mistakes” in the creative process are really opportunities for redesign. Art connects the utilitarian with elegance and grace.

Creativity begets creativity. By using indigenous artistic knowledge we can create social change. Art enables us to access the empathy necessary to change the human condition. Audiences become co-creators in the artistic process. Art is provocative and can help humanity find new roads to traverse challenging issues.

“Artists have a particular way of approaching the world, an approach that might be really useful right now,” said Jones. “What would the world be like if they were given more sway in addressing social problems? I dream of a world where artists have a say in how schools are run or how health care is addressed.”

Building upon Jones’ presentation, the next speaker, **Sean Barlow, Executive Producer of Afropop**, used an audio experience to demonstrate how music both chronicles and reflects change in African society. “Music is the best ambassador for Africa,” he said. He also demonstrated how music builds bridges, links people sharing similar cultures and motivates people to change.

Describing the development of African music both on the Continent and beyond, Barlow called pop music an economic driver for African tourism and a flourishing unifying force for young people. Music documents the heydays of the dawn of independence for many nations and reflects the social and political changes. As European music was phased out, African music was able to grow and flourish.

He noted the oral traditions in Africa and the important role of music that is passed from generation to generation.

Sharing examples of music from Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Morocco, Zanzibar, Zimbabwe, Mali, Congo, Ghana, Angola, South Africa, and Nigeria, Barlow noted how African hip-hop, rap and pop musicians are using their music to address social issues. He spotlighted numerous examples that reflect artists' concerns about immigration, AIDS, gender roles and forced marriage.

He also noted the philanthropy of many African performers who are creating their own foundations and making an impact in their own communities. "There's a lot of money in the African music industry," said Barlow. He described music as a field ripe for venture capital philanthropy. With the costs of music production declining, a modest amount of money to artists with charisma and the right message can help to promote social justice agendas.

The panel encouraged funders to "come along side" of artists even if they do not fund the arts specifically. For example, community arts centers can be a part of identifying compelling needs and play a role in re-granting funds to address them. Documentary filmmakers can bring worldwide awareness to critical social issues.

By rethinking funding strategies to consider the human spirit rather than just organizational infrastructures, funders can support artists as part of supporting social justice and can take advantage of the ability of the arts to touch all aspects of the community.

Resources

Afropop Worldwide: www.afropop.org
Art as Action - www.usaforafrica.org
USA for Africa - www.usaforafrica.org

Trends in Philanthropy: Funding Flows, Cash Transfers, African Philanthropy and Diaspora Giving

Philanthropy takes many forms. The second plenary examined trends in American foundation funding and African philanthropy, giving in the African diaspora community and the effectiveness of cash transfers.

Steven Lawrence, Director of Research for the Foundation Center, presented a snapshot of U.S. foundation giving to benefit Africa. He framed giving to Africa within international giving that increased from \$2.9 billion in 2005 to \$5.9 billion in 2012. Funding for Africa increased from \$400 million to \$1.4 billion over the same period, and remains relatively stable. While most grants go to organizations based in the U. S., about one-third goes to organizations in Africa. South Africa, Kenya,

Nigeria, Uganda, and Tanzania are the top five of 31 recipient countries. The largest benefactors are the Bill & Melinda Gates, Ford, Koch, Rockefeller, and Michael & Susan Dell foundations.

Giving largely supports health, international development, public affairs and education. Lawrence cautioned that these figures represent only traditional U.S.-based philanthropies and that there has been a tremendous growth in indigenous and religious giving. “We need a larger, more holistic look at how funding is supporting these issues,” he said.

“What would cash do?” asked **Chris Blattman, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Columbia University**. He shared the

findings from a research study that explored the effectiveness of direct cash transfers to individuals. A trend in recent years has been the use of

“When you put resources like cash in someone’s hand they get to make their own decisions.”

unconditional cash transfers to individuals rather than support to organizations. But whether cash transfers might be the saviors of development is still a question. He cited evidence that he called “positive enough” to lead some to say that cash transfers may be a new philanthropic business model and the best strategy for ending poverty. “When you put resources like cash in someone’s hand,” he said, “they get to make their own decisions.”

Blattman described a randomized controlled trial in Uganda where women received unconditional cash. Most invested the money in new retail and trading enterprises, resulting in a 50% increase in employment, 100% increase in earnings and 150% increase in savings. Another study in Liberia offered unconditional cash grants to youth. Most invested the money wisely. However, in both studies one year later they were back where they started because other societal constraints continued to hold them back. Money alone is not the solution to most problems.

While cash could be an effective anti-poverty tool, and a highly cost-effective one for the funder, it is not a panacea. Funders and aid workers must identify the binding forces that cash cannot solve and that constrain people from achieving their potential. Other interventions, such as behavior change therapy, trust, collective action and group dynamics training, when combined with cash, may show greater promise. Positive forces are also at work, such as collectives for self-support and cooperative activities. “These are things that cash cannot buy,” he said.

The development of African philanthropy has introduced new thinking in the discussion of philanthropy to Africa. **Dr. Omotade Akin Aina, Director of International Program at the Carnegie Corporation of New York** and co-editor of the book, *Giving to Help, Helping to Give: The Context and Politics of African Philanthropy*, described the evolution and nuances of the African philanthropic landscape over the past 15 years. He noted that there are a growing number of philanthropic networks, social justice foundations, corporate and faith-based giving programs, and community foundations. African foundations and philanthropy organizations are changing the nature of collaborations and how organizations outside of Africa engage with Africa. They are debunking

the traditional notion that donors are all white, male and wealthy. In the African context of mobilizing homegrown resources and working collectively, every household can donate a shilling per day and be a donor. “We are not just looking at high-net-worth individuals but also at high-net-worth ideas,” he said.

Aina also spoke about the debates over which entry points or funding approaches best address social issues. “The sky is big enough for all the birds,” citing his grandmother’s words of wisdom. These debates are counterproductive and create false polarities, he cautioned. Authentic partnerships can form if parties work together in an atmosphere of mutual respect “The problems are big enough in every culture, in every sector. There is still so much work to be done.”

Dr. Mojubaolu Olufunke Okome, Professor of Political Science at Brooklyn College and co-author of “African Immigrant Innovations in 21st Century Giving” presented findings from the report. She contended that the transnationalism of the African diaspora creates new philanthropic linkages. African emigrants give back through a continuum of formal and informal gifts of financial and in-kind support. “Many people do not think of themselves as “philanthropists,” she said, “Rather, they’re merely doing what needs to be done.”

“Wealth is not what you own, but what you give away.”

“Wealth is not what you own, but what you give away,” she said, citing an Ibo proverb that illustrates one of the central ideals to being a good person within the context of African tradition. Philanthropy permeates people’s social, economic and political lives and can take many forms. It is mutual aid for friends, extended families, lineage, and ethnic groups. Africans in the diaspora are developing collective and participatory projects in which “non-elite” philanthropists are principal stakeholders.

Okome identified primary forms of African diaspora giving. Emigrants may support extended families transnationally. Voluntary associations assist others linked around common interests. Giving circles mobilize revolving community funds to their members. African celebrities in the diaspora make philanthropic gifts. Giving also flows from formal philanthropic institutions and religious institutions representing all faiths.

A primary source of charitable giving comes through the remittances that many diaspora Africans send to families back home. Emigrants sent \$50.4 billion in remittances in 2012 -- a revenue source for 120 million people and representing 2.9% of Africa’s GDP. Some \$12 billion of this came from emigrants in the U.S. Remittances, which average \$2,400-\$6,000 per person per year, are the largest external source of finance inflows to the Continent, greater than foreign-directed investment or organizational development assistance.

Resources

African Immigrant Innovations in 21st Century Giving - <http://bit.ly/1oVOAJN>

Foundation Center: International Giving Trends - <http://bit.ly/W4sZoQ>

Giving to Help, Helping to Give: Context & Politics of African Philanthropy - <http://bit.ly/1wmBxlZ>

If You Give the Poor Cash, Does it Help? - <http://bit.ly/1mP4HIS>

Exit Strategies: Managing the Closing Chapter

Martin O'Brien, Senior Vice President for Programs for Atlantic Philanthropies discussed the lessons learned from operating as a foundation under a “giving while living” philosophy. O'Brien described the impact Atlantic Philanthropies has made over the years and how it is managing the closing down of its funding after 30 years and \$6 billion in grants. He said, “It's a lot more fun to give while you're alive rather than while you're dead.”

Atlantic will make its final grants in 2016 after directing \$355 million toward South Africa. O'Brien showed a video of supported programs that are “turning the pain of the past into the hope for the future.”

Atlantic's exit strategy is to leave as responsibly as possible by making concluding grants designed to draw in new resources. Several initiatives and partnerships are mobilizing new international and local support for LGBT, legal advocacy, immigration, rural poverty and social justice issues. While the effectiveness of the exit strategy remains to be seen, Atlantic is helping to incubate new NGOs and to encourage existing NGOs to accept the new reality of Atlantic's departure and to develop new fundraising skills.

Telling the Story of the Atlantic Philanthropies in South Africa - <http://bit.ly/1js1jog>

Impact Investing

Funders can make a difference not only through grants but also through how they choose to invest their assets. Tapping the power of impact investing can advance social and environmental goals. This session considered the challenges and potential pitfalls of impact investing as part of philanthropy's overall approach in an African context.

Cynthia Muller, Senior Director for Impact Investing for Arabella Advisors, noted that impact investing is a charged term with no consistent definition. It is often confused with venture philanthropy, socially responsible funding or program-related investment. She defined impact investing as actively screened investments that make social and environmental impact in a funder's area of focus. Conversely, asset investments that run counter to a foundation's vision undermine the funder's mission.

Impact investing is an opportunity for funders and grantees to think about how they are deploying all their resources, she said. Funders can help grantees to initiate their own impact investments through technical assistance, entrepreneurship training and assisting them to establish stabilized funding streams.

Brinda Ganguly, Associate Director for Program-Related Investments for the Rockefeller Foundation described the Foundation's two approaches. The Foundation's own program-related investment portfolio allows for partnerships with other funders. These partnerships leverage the power of investments for social impact while mitigating levels of risk.

It also awards loans to non-profit organizations and requires repayment. Because many organizations, particularly in a start-up phase, may not expect to repay loans, such an emphasis builds the organization's credit rating, loan-readiness and credibility. Rockefeller becomes a bridge that allows nonprofits to build a track record so they may later apply for commercial loans.

Resources

Three Considerations for Impact Investing in Africa - <http://bit.ly/1qANwdR>
Impact Investing: Rockefeller Foundation - <http://bit.ly/1qANDpP>

Concurrent Sessions: Exploring the Diversity of Strategies

An important part of the agenda is the space reserved for members of AGAG to organize and sponsor sessions on topics and issues related to their funding interests. These sessions provide the opportunity for colleagues to share their experience and make a contribution to knowledge about the field of grantmaking to Africa. The intimate setting and focus on a specific topic or issue helps funders to deepen their understanding of current practices and strategies, learn from the experiences of others and develop and strengthen professional relationships.

Added Value: The Effects of Investing in Rural Women's Organizations Session Organizers: **New Field Foundation and the Global Fund for Women.**

A panel of speakers highlighted findings from two studies on the effects of investments in rural women's organizations in four African countries. They provided practical recommendations for advancing sustainable agriculture and food systems with a gender perspective.

The speakers were: **Andrea Lynch, Program Officer for the Foundation for a Just Society; Annie Kinwa-Muzinga, Professor in the School of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin-Platteville; Tabara Ndiaye, Casamance Program consultant for the New Field Foundation; and Violet Shivtuse, Founder and Coordinator of Shibuye Community Health Workers.**

The first study focused on Senegal where an independent assessment was done to understand the impact of grants to Senegalese rural women's organizations. Women were trained as radio journalists to interview people and then broadcast the survey findings on community radio stations. The survey found that grants increased women's roles as decision-makers and helped them gain

access to fertile land. It also gave them greater freedom of choice in crop cultivation and improved their knowledge of farming practices. Grants also help women to increase land ownership and develop more effective and recognized leadership. Women reported improvements in harvests, revenue, food security, health and education for their daughters.

The study concluded that funders must understand the local context and strive to learn from organizations at the local, regional and national levels. Local advisors are valuable in helping to guide the process and developing funding criteria and assessments. They can help connect organizations providing similar resources in the area and avoid duplication.

The second study focused on grants awarded to rural women's groups addressing sustainable agriculture in Kenya, Uganda and Burkina Faso. Country-based consultants provided technical support and annual meetings of the groups offered opportunities for capacity building and sharing. The study used focus groups and surveys to test the hypothesis that core support funding strengthens women's groups' abilities to generate information, tools, income sources and networks that improve agricultural productivity and alleviate poverty. The study found significant improvements in crop practices, production and daily diets. Women were able to channel more homegrown food into sales and to share financial decision-making with their husbands.

A key lesson from both studies is that patience is necessary in evaluating the impact of funding. Allow 18 months for an initial investment to develop and several years to see fulfillment. A good baseline study, a monitoring and evaluation plan, ongoing funding for institutional development and technical assistance will benefit everyone. Funders should adopt a policy of inclusion for all stakeholders from project conception through evaluation.

Resources

Community Grantmaking in West Africa 2006-2011: Assessing Impact - <http://bit.ly/1oVPHji>
Rural Women's Associations and Sustainable Agriculture in Casamance, Senegal -
<http://bit.ly/1qYXOq8>

Investing in African Youth: Developing Strategies for Funding a New Generation in Sub-Saharan Africa

Session Organizer: MAC AIDS Fund

Young people are a growing percentage of Africa's population. Projections indicate that by 2020 on average 20 years old will comprise 75% of the population. Meeting the needs of this increasingly important demographic is a critical concern. Three panelists presented a snapshot of innovative programs that address youth health, education and employment.

Amber Baker, Manager of Europe, Middle East and Africa Programs for the MAC AIDS Fund, reported on Africa's youth population boom. From 2000-2008, Africa's working-age population grew by 25% and is projected to reach one billion by 2040, surpassing both China and India. This boom

creates significant youth health concerns. MAC identified pediatric AIDS as a major gap and is funding programs that expand prevention, testing and treatment for youth.

Of the total population of people worldwide who are living with HIV, 70% live in Africa and youth are at particular risk. In Botswana, Zambia and Nigeria 90% of all new HIV infections in newborns are a result from mother-to-child transmissions and HIV positive youth frequently do not have access to treatment. In Zambia, one-fifth of all people living with HIV are under age 15 and in Nigeria 430,000 youth are living with HIV. In Botswana and South Africa, adolescent girls are more likely than boys to become infected, she reported.

“Soccer is the language of Africa and it’s more than just a game,” said **Samuel Mayer, Director of Business Development and Strategy for Grassroots Soccer**. This organization uses soccer as a vehicle to change a generation’s future and educate, inspire and mobilize youth about AIDS and life skills. More than 750,000 youth have graduated from Grassroots Soccer programs. Thousands more are being tested for HIV and learning that the disease can be prevented and treated. Although impact has been widely demonstrated finding government “champions” at the national, district and community levels can be challenging.

Caitlin Mitchell, Program Associate for EMPower, the Emerging Markets Foundation, described how the organization links the resources of emerging markets professionals worldwide with the vitality of local organizations in emerging markets countries.

She described the Livelihoods initiative to help people in Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa see the link between education and employability. Education is a key building block for moving people toward employment. Consequently, the Livelihoods Initiative supports vocational training, financial literacy, and tutoring to help students succeed in high school and qualify for post-secondary education. EMPower programs are enhancing students’ English skills, preparing them for high school exit exams and offering skills training for girls in math, science and technology.

Theories of Change in Grantmaking in Southern Africa

Session Organizer: Southern African Trust

Neville Gabriel, Executive Director and Bhekinkosi Moyo, Deputy Director of the Southern Africa Trust described how theories of change could apply to regional and Africa-wide funding strategies. They shared approaches to strengthen social security, agriculture and business development when working in partnership with civil society organizations and community development institutions.

Using architecture of relationships, they demonstrated how national and regional civil society organizations engage with key policy-making institutions and influencers. Mapping these connections identifies influencers and relationships that need strengthening to assist the Trust in its strategic thinking and program planning.

They explained a process of creating civil societies through a Policy Advocacy Value Chain. The process requires issue identification, turning experience into evidence, analysis and packaging, public advocacy, policy engagement and finally practice and structural change.

The Trust uses a systemic approach for sustained change based upon institutional development and evidence-based policy content. The result is more effective use of media and communications, engagement in direct advocacy, capacity development, strategic mentoring, leadership development and facilitating multi-stakeholder policy dialogue.

African Youth as a Catalyst for Peace and Democracy

Session Organizer: Issroff Family Foundation

This panel discussion described the impact of young African change makers who have crafted youth-led initiatives to build peace in several countries despite the challenges posed by ethnic and regional conflicts, the youth population boom and governance concerns.

The panelists were **Lisa Issroff, Founder of the Issroff Family Foundation, Andy Bryant, Executive Director of the Segal Foundation and Eddy Gicheru Oketch, Founder of Peace for Africa and Economic Development.**

The African youth population is enormous, with some 200 million people currently between the ages of 15 and 24, a number expected to double by 2045. Issroff suggested that rather than seeing this in a negative light, funders can join these youth in the process of making Africa more democratic. Bryant added that supporting “champions” who can mobilize others in their community is a good investment for funders.

Oketch shared a moving, personal experience of growing up in a small Kenyan village, the sixth of nine children. When his mother died when he was 13, he dropped out of school to help support his family. With no skills, he survived in the streets where he developed community theater groups with other street kids.

He went back to school and was raised by people from other tribal groups. Reacting to the inter-tribal fighting he encountered, he started a movement where young people could be catalysts for tribal collaboration. He obtained funding for incubating enterprises in which youth work toward peaceful coexistence. The African Leadership Academy identified him as a rising star, and invited him to South Africa where they are located. He later returned to Kenya where he was connected to a network of similar organizations.

The biggest problems faced by youth, he said, are unemployment, lack of exposure to opportunities, inadequate cross-cultural exposure to other ethnicities and insufficient participation in leadership and

development. Without these, youth will not be able to play a role in bringing peace and democracy to their communities.

Network Mapping and Environmental Changes

Session Organizers: Christian Aid and Global Greengrants Fund

Harnessing the power of networks can inform and strengthen funding strategies. This session discussed how network mapping could provide an evaluation framework to gain insights on the impact of funding approaches.

How do community networks emerge and interact? Moderator **Bess Rothenberg, Deputy Director of Research and Evaluation of Wellspring Advisors** introduced **Janet Awimbo, Coordinator of the Global Greengrants Fund's East and Southern Africa Advisory Boards** who described a process of mapping relationships among NGOs and "influencers" in Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. The maps depict visually how network members are interconnected, both geographically and by interests. The mapping process helps track the effectiveness of grants on building social movements and will be the framework for research in 2014-16.

"Once you have networks coming together, they can point you to other areas of need," said **Abdoulai Darimani, Advisory Board Coordinator for West Africa for the Global Greengrants Fund**. He described lessons learned from making small grants that strengthen community networks responding to environmental pollution, economic destruction, social disorganization, and human rights violations stemming from West African mining. By facilitating linkages and coordinated action among community groups, the capacity of grassroots organizations is strengthened and the people most affected by these problems gain a voice in decision-making.

Taking time to build networks and gain initial support is not a waste of resources, but rather is necessary for networks to survive, he said. Funders seeking to build community networks must recognize that a network and its individual members may have opposing interests. And networks tend to be most successful when they react defensively and to a common cause. Grants to networks are most successful when reporting and accountability mechanisms are flexible, and when the networks themselves define where support is most needed.

Joyce Ashun, Manager of Christian Aid, Ghana, described networking among civil society organizations to promote climate justice. Framing climate change as both an environmental and social justice issue, she said that citizen participation linked to capacity is the key to successful programs.

Numerous Ghanaian organizations focus on environmental issues. A grant fostered coherence and coordination among them, strengthened their capacity to interact effectively, and secured a strong civil society voice in Ghana's national climate change policy. The grant also increased visibility for the civil society movement and greater involvement in the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance.

The Women's Platform for the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework: Peace in the DRC

Session Organizer: Global Fund for Women

This session described how the initiative combines the expertise and resources of the United Nations (UN) and women's funds in a comprehensive approach to peacekeeping. The UN Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region of Africa believes that women are not just victims of war, but also solutions to war. Recognizing women's potential to be architects for building peace, the UN has launched an initiative to ensure that women play a role in the Democratic Republic of Congo's peace process.

Presenters were: **Harriette Williams Bright, Advocacy Director for Femmes Africa Solidarite;** **Miranda Tabifor, Senior Gender Advisor for the United Nations Special Envoy Mary Robinson;** and **Muadi Mukenge, Program Director for Sub-Saharan Africa for the Global Fund for Women.**

Similar to what occurred in post-war Liberia and post-apartheid South Africa, women's funds and social justice organizations in the DRC see themselves as potential collaborators. "These groups already have the commitment and the interest despite varying thematic interests. We've been good about recognizing that the challenges we face are bigger than any of us and that putting our resources together can make us more effective," Mukenge said.

Because many social justice issues impact women, women's voices must not be isolated from political processes. The Fund is starting a three-year initiative in the DRC, Burundi, Rwanda, and Uganda, seeking compelling actors who can reinforce the collective activity of women across Great Lakes Region borders. The initiative will establish online, multi-lingual communications platforms. Periodic conferences will enable women to share best practices of creating solutions at the community level. The Fund hopes to award 60 grants annually to support the management, capacity, networking and financial self-sustainability of women's organizations.

Case Studies

The Conference concluded with three case studies about a specific strategy, approach or theory of change. The session examined each case study separately as well as comparing and contrasting them.

A Two-Faceted Approach to Supporting Indigenous Communities: Highlighting Industry Risk and Building Community Capacity

Presenter: First Peoples Worldwide

Nick Pelosi, Corporate Engagement and Programs Assistant, described First Peoples WorldWide's parallel top-down and bottom-up approaches to supporting indigenous people's rights that engage both the private sector and the communities themselves.

Pelosi described a combination of grants, advocacy and research that leveraged business interests to strengthen a community's fight for land rights in the Niger Delta. He shared highlights from "The Indigenous Rights Risk Report," a risk assessment that found 300 oil companies to be at great risk of financial loss from civil disobedience, smear campaigns, violence, and protest. The greatest exposure – through reduced corporate profits and return on investment – was in those companies that were violating the rights of indigenous people. Businesses are shown how they can benefit from respecting the rights of communities. Grants are framed in terms of business models, value, benefit and risk – the language of the corporate sector.

The advocacy campaigns helped corporations to recognize that respecting the rights of the community could mitigate the costs of ignoring the rights of indigenous people. By securing the consent of these communities, best business practices were incentivized. The power of business interests and a positively engaged private sector leverages the impact of small grants to community groups. A similar approach can be used with government entities that are seeking to attract business investment, he said.

The Indigenous Rights Risk Report - <http://bit.ly/1jj5VGT>

Battling Giants: The Case of a Winning Partnership between a South African NGO and a U.S. Based Funder

Presenter: International Development Exchange (IDEX)

Yeshica Weerasekera, Director of Program Partnerships, described the challenges and opportunities of IDEX's partnership with Biowatch that illustrates that philanthropy must be willing to take a risk in order to have an impact.

In the regulatory climate of post-apartheid South Africa, international seed giants sought permits to import and grow genetically modified crops. Due to heavy lobbying, these permits were granted without environmental impact statements. Biowatch, dedicated to food sovereignty, biodiversity and environmental justice, went to court to gain access to government information.

Monsanto and other corporations joined the government in defending the lawsuit. The court ruled that Biowatch was entitled to the information, but unexpectedly ordered it to pay all court costs, including Monsanto's. A nine-year struggle marked with interim defeats ensued in which Biowatch sought to have these costs, which it could not afford to pay, reversed.

Finally the Constitutional Court reversed lower court rulings and ordered the Department of Agriculture to pay Monsanto's legal costs. This extraordinary, groundbreaking victory for civil

society helped win legislative reforms regarding government transparency, access, and public health concerns about genetically modified organisms. It significantly affected public interest litigation in South Africa and beyond.

IDEX learned the valuable lesson of staying the course through a protracted process in an authentic partnership based on mutual trust, reciprocal learning and solidarity.“ This case reminded IDEX and our philanthropic partners that we must continue to put power back in the hands of marginalized communities by supporting community-based projects, honoring grassroots leadership, and relying on local knowledge to be the engine of social change,” Weerasekera said.

“We learned from Biowatch’s victory that it is the quality and integrity of the work — not the size of the organization — that matters. Small can be fierce, flexible, loyal, deep-rooted – small in fact, can be big, and local triumphs can have global impact. The same applies to small grants.”

A Landmark Victory for Justice - <http://bit.ly/1oAulsN>

Leveraging Limited Resources for Outsized Impact: Building a Social Impact Incubator in Burundi

Presenter: Segal Family Foundation

Executive Director Andy Bryant described the Segal Family Foundation’s two-pronged approach. It provides flexible, unrestricted funding requiring minimal reports and establishes active partnerships through networks, connections and advising. Segal works with grassroots organizations and innovators in 18 countries – particularly Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Burundi.

Bryant described how the challenging conditions in Burundi, created opportunities for a small funder like Segal to make a big impact. In 2013, Segal piloted the Social Impact Incubator, a capacity-building program that gave local organizations (called “Champions”) the coaching, skills and networks they need to achieve their vision of community development. The Incubator took a three-pronged approach that empowers local visionary organizations, connects them with high impact NGOs and attracts international funders. The NGOs received training to build management systems and connect with powerful people. An advisory committee engaged the collective experience of local thought leaders.

Segal’s initial \$50,000 investment catalyzed an additional \$250,000 in donor funds to support the work of 12 Champions. Segal is building upon the pilot’s success by doubling the size of the project and partnering with CARE International to assist 24 Champions. There are plans to replicate the incubator in other countries.

Bryant shared three lessons learned. Building trust must be the first step, networking is all-important, and unexpected sources of funding become available when people see success. “If you’re the first

funder in, you can accomplish a lot and get a lot of leverage because other people are looking for someone else to take the lead,” he said.

Closing

“A conference is as successful as the conversations we have,” said **AGAG Co-Chair Vuyiswa Sidzumo** in summing up what participants felt was as robust, effective and responsive conference. Once again, participants enjoyed an opportunity to candidly share challenges, opportunities and lessons learned in an open, honest and off-the-record forum.

The closing session engaged participants in a discussion of whether a common agenda can be found that would strengthen the overall impact of funding on the Continent. They considered how to move such an agenda forward, what questions should be asked to be more effective and what the next steps should be.

Participants

Ellen Agler
Chief Executive Officer
End Fund

Phil Akrow
Rapporteur
Africa Grantmakers' Affinity Group

Irene Serot Almeras
Member of College of Experts
The Fondation Ensemble

Keith Armstrong
Program Assistant
International Human Rights Funders Group

Sarah Arney
Senior Program Officer
Trinity Wall Street Grants

Joyce Ashun
Country Manager, Ghana
Christian Aid

Janet Awimbo
Coordinator, East & Southern Africa Advisory Bds
Global Greengrants Fund

Amber Baker
Manager, Europe, The Middle East & Africa
MAC AIDS Fund

Heather Benjamin
Program Officer, Public Health Program
Open Society Foundations

Jennifer Blum
Program Officer, Population & Reproductive Health
David and Lucile Packard Foundation

Peter Brach
International Development Advisor
Brach Family Charitable Foundation

Jamie Brooks
Executive Director
Global Philanthropy Alliance

Andy Bryant
Executive Director
Segal Family Foundation

Alexandra Buerkle
Program Associate
ELMA Philanthropies

Rohit Burman
Executive Director, Europe, Middle East, & Africa
MAC AIDS Fund

Karen Colvard
Program Director
Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation

Merly Cramer
Assistant to the Founder
Issroff Family Foundation

Abdulai Darimani
West Africa Advisory Board Coordinator
Global Greengrants Fund

Mamadou Diallo
Associate Program Officer, West Africa
Global Fund for Children

Ellena Fotinatos
Deputy Director, Donor and Nonprofit Services
King Baudouin Foundation USA

Neville Gabriel
Executive Director
Southern Africa Trust

Elan Garonzik
Vice President, Program Administration
ELMA Philanthropies

Susan Gibbs
Consultant
Wallace Global Fund

Shira Gitomer
Program Director, Grant Management
Geneva Global

Talaya Grimes
Communications and Program Manager
Africa Grantmakers' Affinity Group

Stephanie Hartka
Philanthropic Advisor
Tides Center

Emily Hayter
Partnerships and Communications Manager
Cannon Collins Trust

Sarah Hobson
Executive Director
New Field Foundation

Yinebon Iniya
Manager, International Data Relations
Foundation Center

Lisa Issroff
Founder
Issroff Foundation

Andrea Johnson
Program Officer, Higher Education & Libraries
Carnegie Corporation of New York

Krista Lauer
Director, Global Health Financing Initiative
Open Society Foundations

Judith Le
Program Associate
Wellspring Advisors

Kimberly Lewis
Senior Director, Social Investments, Corporate
Responsibility
Pfizer Inc.

Andrea Lynch
Program Officer
Foundation for a Just Society

Meron Makonnen
Senior Counsel
The ELMA Philanthropies

Marci McLendon
Executive Director
Gbowee Peace USA

Maggie Miller
Manager, Hilton Humanitarian Prize
Conrad Hilton Foundation

Judy Miller
Vice President & Director, Hilton Humanitarian Prize
Conrad Hilton Foundation

Yvonne Moore
Chief of Staff/Chief Operating officer
Disney-Hauser Philanthropies

William Moses
Managing Director
Kresge Foundation

Bhekinkosi Moyo
Deputy Director
Southern Africa Trust

Muadi Mukenge
Program Director for Sub-Saharan Africa
Global Fund for Women

Niamani Mutima
Executive Director
Africa Grantmakers' Affinity Group

Tabara Ndiaye
Program Consultant
New Field Foundation

Alyssa Panzarino
Program Assistant
Trinity Wall Street Grants

Nick Pelosi
Corporate Engagement and Programs Assistant
First Peoples Worldwide

Bonnie Potter
President
The Lester Fund

Pamela Pratt
Program Associate, Africa
Global Fund for Children

Bess Rothenberg
Deputy Director, Research and Evaluation
Wellspring Advisors

Charlie Rotunno
Executive Vice President
Raskob Foundation

Azeen Salimi
Program Director, Education and Convenings
International Human Rights Funders Group

Vuyiswa Sidzumo
Director - South Africa
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

Leah Teklemariam
Director of Programmes
Stephen Lewis Foundation

Marcia Thomas
Executive Director
USA for Africa

Sangeeta Tripathi
Senior Program Manager
Johnson & Johnson

Maria Lopez Vento
Vice President Programs and Partnerships, Global
Initiatives
Helen Bader Foundation

Lee Waldorf
Director of Policy
Stephen Lewis Foundation

Yeshica Weerasekera
Director, Program Partnerships
IDEX

Mingshu Wright
Assistant to Founder
Issroff Family Foundation

The Women's Platform for the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework: Peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) – Global Fund for Women

Women have demonstrated their importance as key architects for building peace. Learn about this new initiative launched by United Nations Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Ms. Mary Robinson, to ensure that women play a role in the peace process in the DRC through combining the expertise and resources of the United Nations and womens' funds.

Speakers: Muadi Mukenge, Program Director for Sub-Saharan Africa, Global Fund for Women
Harriette Williams Bright, Advocacy Director, Femmes Africa Solidarite
Miranda Tabifor, Senior Gender Advisor for the United Nations Special Envoy Mary Robinson

12:00 – 1:00 pm LUNCH

1:00 – 2:00 pm **Impacting Investing**

Funders are tapping the power and potential of impact investing to accomplish social and environmental goals. Impact investing efforts in Africa are highly instructive. With opportunities come challenges and potential pitfalls. This session will offer insights on using and managing investments as a part of philanthropy's overall approach.

Speakers: Cynthia Muller, Senior Director, Impacting Investing, Arabella Advisors
Brinda Ganguly, Associate Director, Program Related Investments, The Rockefeller Foundation

2:00 – 3:30 pm **Case Studies**

Case Study 1 -Two Faceted Approach to Supporting Indigenous Communities: Highlighting Industry Risk & Building Community Capacity- Nick Pelosi, Corporate Engagement & Programs Assistant, First Peoples WorldWide

Taking a top down and bottom up approach to supporting the rights of an indigenous community means engaging both the private sector and communities. This case study examines the strategy to leverage business interest and strengthen a community's fight for land rights using a combination of grants, advocacy and research that makes case that business benefits from respecting the rights of communities.

Case Study 2-Battling Giants: The Case of a Winning Partnership between a South African NGO and a US based Funder - Yeshica Weerasekera, Director, Program Partnerships, IDEX

This case study examines the challenges and opportunities of partnership that speaks to the core of how philanthropy often has to take a risk to have an impact. IDEX will describe its partnership with Biowatch during a costly and harrowing nine-year legal battle with Monsanto over the importation of genetically modified crops to South Africa. Hear the story and learn how sustained and strategic support can result in change with both local and global impact.

Case Study 3 - Leveraging Limited Resources for Outsized Impact: Building A Social Impact Incubator in Burundi - Andy Bryant, Executive Director, Segal Family Foundation

Small organizations often have an advantage in developing strategic partnerships when they use their nimbleness and appetite for risk to "punch above their weight." This case study examines the success of a pilot social impact incubator that leveraged support for and the impact of twelve organizations in Burundi.

3:30 – 4:30 pm **Closing Session**

Using the Conference discussions as a framework, this session engages funders in a discussion of how can funder can locate their work with the landscape of philanthropy to Africa, what common agenda would strengthen the overall impact of funding in Africa and do we/can we, and if so, how, work together to move that agenda forward? What questions should we be asking ourselves to be more effective in our work? What can be the next steps?

5:30 – 7:30 pm **Reception** hosted by Issroff Family and Segal Family Foundations

AGENDA

Tuesday, March 18, 2014

5:30 – 7:00 pm Opening Networking Reception – Hosted by Philanthropy New York

Wednesday, March 19, 2014

9:00 – 9:15 am **Welcome** – Niamani Mutima, Executive Director, AGAG
Introduction of AGAG Co-Chairs and Steering Committee Members
Remarks: Sarah Hobson, New Field Foundation; AGAG Co-Chair
Vuyiswa Sidzumo, C. S. Mott Foundation; AGAG Co-Chair

9:15 – 10:30 am **Opening Session: Art, Philanthropy and Africa**

Art in all forms – music, dance and theatre – serves as an engine and mirror of social and political change and shapes our perceptions of the world around us. This exciting and engaging session examines art and music as powerful forces for action, as a reflection of social change and a source of what we have come to know about Africa.

Speakers: Marcia Thomas, Executive Director, United Support of Artists for Africa
Dr. Omi Osun Joni Jones, Associate Professor, Department of African and African Diaspora Studies, University of Texas at Austin
Sean Barlow, Executive Producer, Afropop World Wide, World Music Productions

10:45 – 1:00 pm **Funding Flows, Cash Transfers, African Philanthropy and Diaspora Giving**

Grantmaking, informal giving and remittances are all part of the landscape of philanthropy. This session will discuss current funding trends, research on cash transfers, diaspora giving and the context and politics of African philanthropy.

Moderator: Andrea Johnson, Program Officer, Carnegie Corporation of New York
Speakers: Steven Lawrence, Director of Research, The Foundation Center
Christopher Blattman, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University
Dr. Omotade Akin Aina, Program Director, Higher Education in Africa, Carnegie Corporation of New York
Dr. Mojubaolu Olufunke Okome, Professor of Political Science, Brooklyn College, State University of New York

1:00 – 2:00 pm LUNCH

2:00 – 3:00 pm **South Africa: Promoting Access to Justice, Health and Social Services**

Speaker: Martin O'Brien, Senior Vice President for Programmes, Atlantic Philanthropies

Atlantic Philanthropies was founded by Charles Feeney and is a limited life foundation that operated anonymously until 1997. It will complete its active grantmaking in 2016 after 30 years and over \$6 billion in grants around the world including South Africa. During this session Martin O'Brien will discuss what Atlantic has learned, the impact it has made and how it is managing the closing chapter of its philanthropy.

3:00 – 3:30 pm **Small Group Discussions**

Against the backdrop of the morning sessions, participants discuss how changes in the landscapes in Africa and in global philanthropy do and should shape the dynamics between both? How can we engage individually and collectively to create a world where African communities achieve their full potential? What do we mean by philanthropy in support of African communities?

3:45 – 5:00 pm **Report Back and Moving Forward**

Reports from the small group discussions explore the collective interest in developing a common agenda that can help leverage the impact of the diverse funding strategies and recent developments in Africa and in philanthropy.

6:00 – 7:30 pm **Reception** hosted by The Ford Foundation

Thursday, March 20, 2014

9:00 – 12:00 noon **Exploring the Diversity of Philanthropy in Africa - Concurrent Sessions**

Each year members contribute to the agenda by organizing sessions and presenting case studies on effective approaches and current initiatives. These sessions are important part of building a larger and stronger network of informed, knowledgeable and connected funders.

9:15 – 10:30 am **Concurrent Sessions – I**

Added Value: The Effects of Investing in Rural Women's Organizations - New Field Foundation

In the face of growing food insecurity and land acquisition, African rural women and their organizations are important actors that can significantly contribute to a stable society if accorded resources, rights, and recognition. This session highlights the findings of two studies on the effects of investments in rural women's organizations in four countries in East and West Africa and provides practical recommendations for advancing sustainable agriculture and food systems with a gender perspective.

Speakers: Andrea Lynch, Program Officer, Foundation for a Just Society
Annie Kinwa-Muzinga, Professor, School of Agriculture at the University of Wisconsin – Platteville, School of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin
Tabara Ndiaye, Program Consultant, Casamance, New Field Foundation
Violet Shvtuse, Founder and Coordinator, Shibuye Community Health Workers

Investing in African Youth: Developing Strategies for Funding a New Generation in Sub-Saharan Africa – MAC AIDS Fund

Young people constitute a growing percentage of the population in Africa with projections indicating that three of every four people will average age 20 by 2020. Hear panelists discuss their strategy to meet the needs of this increasingly important demographic, through innovative programs that address health, education and employment.

Speakers: Amber Baker, Manager, EMEA Program, MAC AIDS Fund
Caitlin Mitchell, Program Associate, Empower

Theories of Change in Grantmaking in Southern Africa-Southern Africa Trust

Put on your creative thinking cap and learn how theories of change can apply to funding within a regional and continental framework. Learn how strategies to strengthen social security, agriculture and business development are effective when working in partnership with civil society and organizations such as Southern Africa Development Community and the African Union.

Speakers: Bhengkosi Moyo, Deputy Director, Southern Africa Trust
Neville Gabriel, Executive Director, Southern Africa Trust

10:45 – 12:00 noon **Concurrent Sessions II**

African Youth as Catalyst for Peace and Democracy in Africa – Issroff Foundation

The intersection of conflict, youth population and governance poses challenges for African communities to develop the climate to fuel good governance and peace. Join this discussion of the The intersection of conflict, youth population and governance poses challenges for African communities to develop the climate to fuel good governance and peace. Join this discussion of the impact of young African change makers who have crafted youth-led initiatives for peace building in several African countries.

Speakers: Lisa Issroff, Founder, Issroff Foundation
Andy Bryant, Executive Director, Segal Foundation
Eddy Gicheru Oketch, Founder and Trustee member of the Board of Directors, Peace for Africa and Economic Development

Network Mapping and Environmental Challenges in Africa - Global Greengrants Fund

Deepen your understanding of how harnessing the power of networks in Africa can inform and strengthen funding strategy. Learn how network mapping can provide an evaluation framework to gain more insights on the impact of your funding approaches.

Speakers: Bess Rothenberg, Deputy Director of Research and Evaluation, Wellspring Advisors
Janet Awimbo, Program Coordinator, East & South Africa, Global Greengrants Fund (GGF)
Abdoulai Darimani, Advisory Board Coordinator, West Africa, GGF
Joyce Ashun, Country Manager, Christian Aid-Ghana



2014-2016 Steering Committee

Rohit Burman, MAC AIDS Fund
Raoul Davion, MacArthur Foundation
Andrea Gay, United Nations Foundation
Shira Gitomer, Geneva Global
Sarah Hobson, New Field Foundation (Co-chair)
Andrea Johnson, Carnegie Corporation of New York
William Moses, Kresge Foundation
Vuyiswa Sidzumo, C. S. Mott Foundation (Co-chair)

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