

# **Reconsidering development: Rethinking the relationship between American foundations and universities in Africa**

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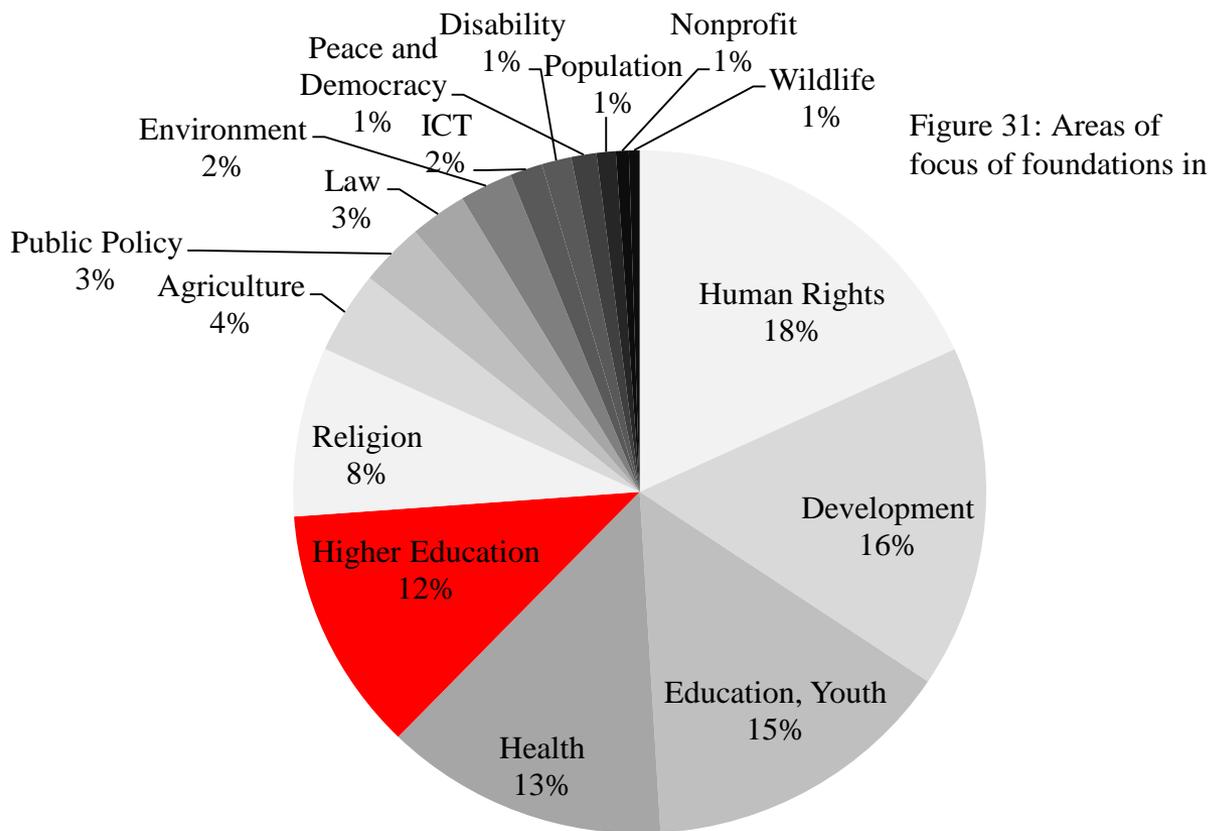
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Differences and Diverse Perspectives”

# Setting the Agenda

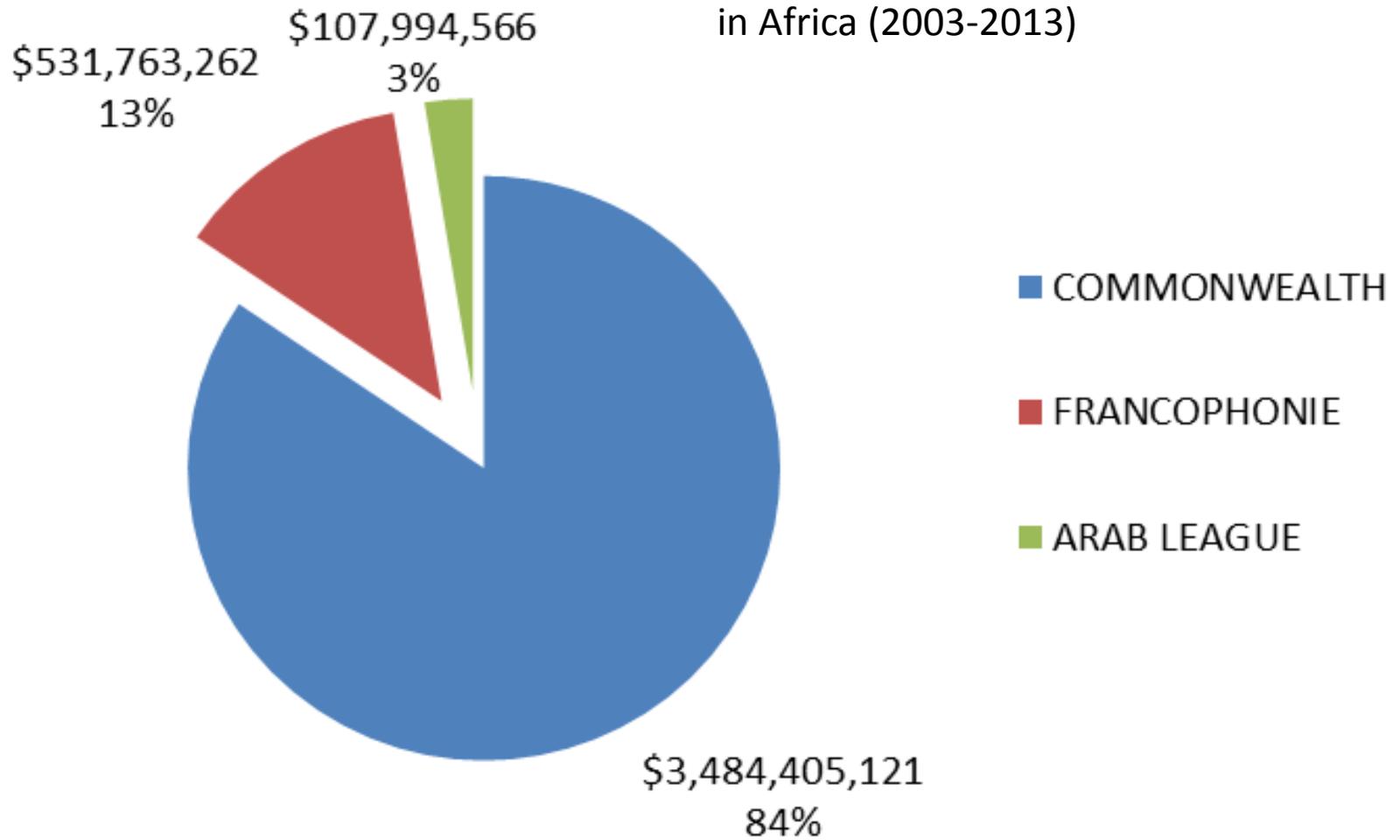
- US Foundations play a role in tracing the path of development for universities, steering, directing, and supporting priorities that they set for the sector.
- donor agencies have become actively involved in setting the agenda for development
- African universities define their missions and align their priorities in order to receive funding from these agencies.
- With African governments collectively and individually setting their own development agendas calls for a rethinking of the relationship between donor agencies and universities as “instruments” for the development agenda.

## Grants by US Foundations to Africa (2003-2013)



3,565 grants to Africa between 2003 and 2013. All sectors included, 330 private foundations made grants totaling \$4.1 billion to support numerous initiative in Africa.

Distribution of US Foundation Grants in Africa (2003-2013)





# Total Grant Receipts by Country (2003-2013)

| <u>Country</u>      | <u>Total Grant Receipts</u> |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| South Africa        | \$1,163,607,934             |
| Kenya               | \$1,140,091,091             |
| Nigeria             | \$361,595,257               |
| Uganda              | \$195,968,970               |
| Ghana               | \$156,604,359               |
| Ethiopia            | \$126,048,967               |
| Tanzania            | \$106,705,983               |
| Senegal             | \$91,737,887                |
| Swaziland           | \$78,293,737                |
| Egypt               | \$76,968,172                |
| Zimbabwe            | \$70,783,757                |
| Mauritius           | \$38,725,720                |
| Mozambique          | \$38,714,429                |
| Botswana            | \$24,073,160                |
| All other countries | \$249,721,000               |

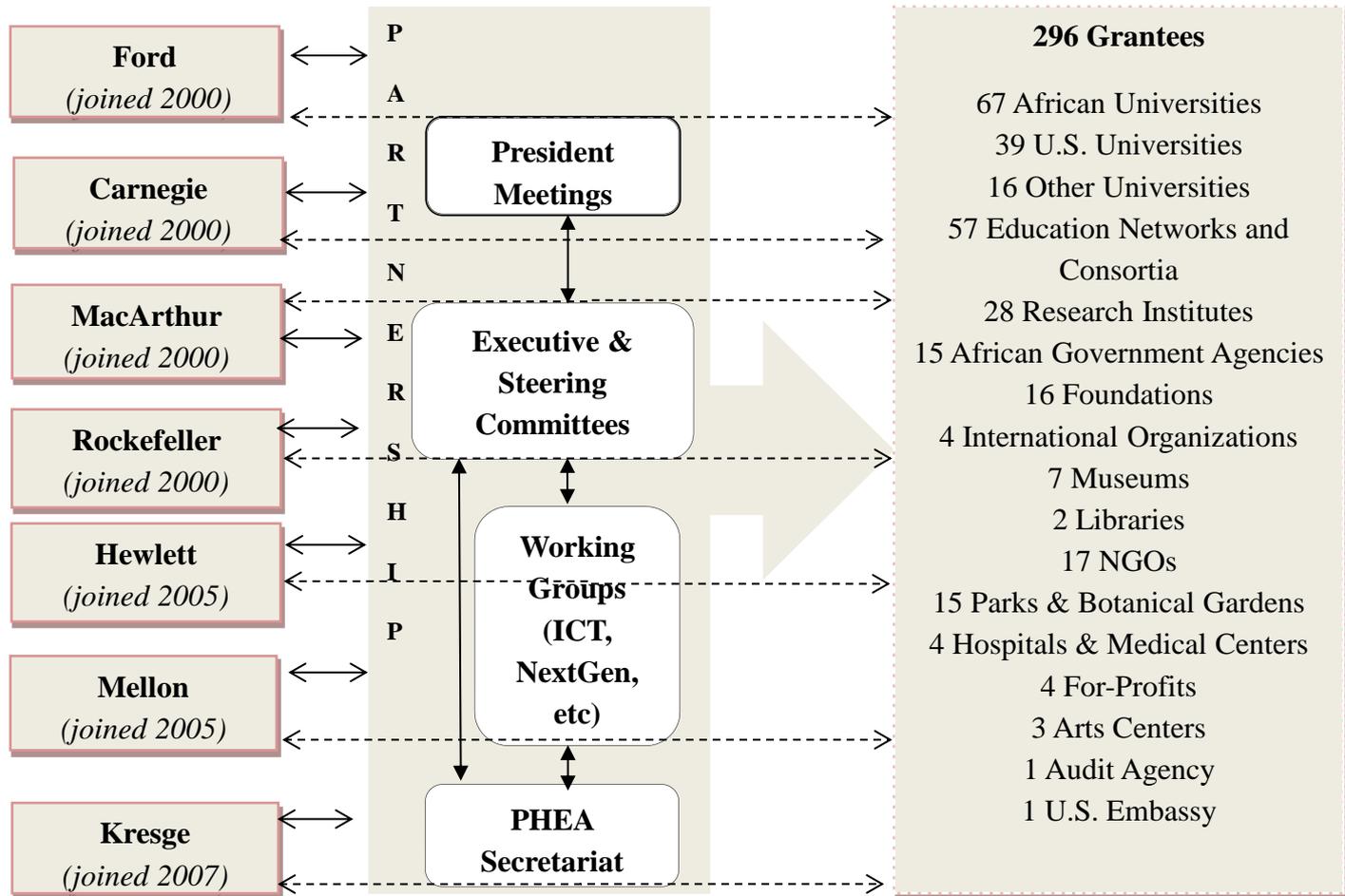
# Five main types of U.S. foundations regularly invest in African education

- **Private foundations:** *top grantmaking contributors to higher education on the continent (i.e. the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, or Carnegie Corporation of New York).*
- **Corporate foundations:** *foundations started by a company with a single gift that then becomes an endowment. These foundations' mission is usually aligned with the company's own strategy (i.e. The Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation, or the Coca-Cola Foundation).*
- **Community foundations:** *conduct grantmaking activities that often, but not always, benefit local charities and charitable community projects. (i.e. Silicon Valley Community Foundation, New York Community Trust in New York).*
- **Operating foundations:** *may make grants, but the grant amount awarded generally is small relative to the funds used for the foundation's own programs (i.e. Open Doors International or the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy Foundation).*
- **Public charities** *may have partnerships with medical research organizations in Africa (i.e. Howard Hughes Medical Institute).*

# Higher Education

- 78 foundations that invested intensively in higher education organizations in Africa between 2003 and 2013.
- \$573.5 million
- 1,471 grants
- 194 higher education organizations
- 28 countries during 2003 and 2013.

# The Partnership for Higher Education in Africa (2000-2010)



**Table 2: Top U.S. Grantmakers to African Higher Education Organizations (2003-2013)**

| Foundations                           | State | Number of grants | Total Grants Amount | Grant Average | PHEA |
|---------------------------------------|-------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|------|
| Ford Foundation                       | NY    | 421              | \$78,826,023        | \$187,235     | ✓    |
| Rockefeller Foundation                | NY    | 186              | \$54,522,589        | \$293,132     | ✓    |
| Andrew W. Mellon Foundation           | NY    | 180              | \$59,791,320        | \$332,174     | ✓    |
| Carnegie Corporation of New York      | NY    | 140              | \$105,278,596       | \$751,990     | ✓    |
| John & Catherine MacArthur            | IL    | 78               | \$43,987,054        | \$563,937     | ✓    |
| W. K. Kellogg Foundation              | MI    | 58               | \$42,430,576        | \$731,562     |      |
| Kresge Foundation                     | MI    | 49               | \$21,902,283        | \$446,985     | ✓    |
| Atlantic Philanthropies               | NY    | 45               | \$58,826,876        | \$1,307,264   |      |
| Charles Stewart Mott Foundation       | MI    | 41               | \$3,751,800         | \$91,507      |      |
| Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation       | WA    | 40               | \$73,690,156        | \$1,842,254   |      |
| William and Flora Hewlett Foundation  | CA    | 30               | \$9,433,500         | \$314,450     | ✓    |
| Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Inc.       | NY    | 26               | \$2,016,500         | \$77,558      |      |
| McKnight Foundation                   | MN    | 18               | \$3,223,000         | \$179,056     |      |
| Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation, Inc. | NY    | 15               | \$1,432,002         | \$95,467      |      |
| Citi Foundation                       | NY    | 9                | \$556,100           | \$61,789      |      |
| Spencer Foundation                    | IL    | 7                | \$795,000           | \$113,571     |      |
| Christensen Fund                      | CA    | 6                | \$427,132           | \$71,189      |      |
| Motorola Solutions Foundation         | IL    | 6                | \$261,000           | \$43,500      |      |
| J. Paul Getty Trust                   | CA    | 5                | \$568,800           | \$113,760     |      |
| Goldman Sachs Foundation              | NY    | 4                | \$1,550,041         | \$387,510     |      |
| David and Lucile Packard Foundation   | CA    | 4                | \$599,785           | \$149,946     |      |
| Marin Community Foundation            | CA    | 4                | \$195,560           | \$48,890      |      |
| Flora Family Foundation               | CA    | 4                | \$180,000           | \$45,000      |      |
| Western Union Foundation              | CO    | 4                | \$140,000           | \$35,000      |      |
| Starr Foundation                      | NY    | 4                | \$100,000           | \$25,000      |      |
| Oprah Winfrey Foundation              | IL    | 3                | \$1,300,000         | \$433,333     |      |
| Doris Duke Charitable Foundation      | NY    | 3                | \$570,500           | \$190,167     |      |
| JPMorgan Chase Foundation             | NY    | 3                | \$216,000           | \$72,000      |      |
| Alfred P. Sloan Foundation            | NY    | 3                | \$128,000           | \$42,667      |      |
| Google.org                            | CA    | 2                | \$1,250,000         | \$625,000     |      |
| Charles A. Dana Foundation, Inc.      | NY    | 2                | \$557,002           | \$278,501     |      |
| GE Foundation                         | CT    | 2                | \$200,000           | \$100,000     |      |
| Silicon Valley Community Foundation   | CA    | 2                | \$200,000           | \$100,000     |      |
| Levi Strauss Foundation               | CA    | 2                | \$129,000           | \$64,500      |      |
| Michael and Susan Dell Foundation     | TX    | 2                | \$122,132           | \$61,066      |      |

**Table 1: Top U.S. Foundation Beneficiaries in Higher Education in Africa (2003-2013)**

| Top University Recipients       | Country      | Grant Total  | Main Donor(s)                                  |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--|
| University of Cape Town         | South Africa | \$80,902,000 | Gates, Carnegie, Atlantic, Mellon              |
| University of the Witwatersrand | South Africa | \$49,295,000 | Gates, CCNY, Mellon                            |
| University of the Western Cape  | South Africa | \$47,352,000 | Kresge, Atlantic, Mellon, Ford                 |
| Makerere University             | Uganda       | \$42,512,000 | Rockefeller , Carnegie                         |
| University of Kwazulu-Natal     | South Africa | \$28,742,000 | Carnegie, Mellon, Rockefeller                  |
| University of Ghana             | Ghana        | \$19,992,000 | Gates, Carnegie, Hewlett, Ford                 |
| University of Pretoria          | South Africa | \$19,890,000 | Gates, Kellogg, Carnegie, Mellon               |
| University of Zimbabwe          | Zimbabwe     | \$17,154,000 | Rockefeller, Kellogg                           |
| University of Ibadan            | Nigeria      | \$14,162,000 | MacArthur, Ford                                |
| University of Dar es Salaam     | Tanzania     | \$12,055,000 | Carnegie, Ford, Rockefeller                    |
| Rhodes University               | South Africa | \$10,867,000 | Mellon, Atlantic, Kresge, Ford                 |
| University of Stellenbosch      | South Africa | \$10,123,000 | Gates, Mellon, Carnegie                        |
| Ahmadu Bello University         | Nigeria      | \$8,563,000  | MacArthur, Carnegie                            |
| American University in Cairo    | Egypt        | \$8,036,000  | Ford, Gates, Hewlett                           |
| African Virtual University      | Kenya        | \$7,881,000  | Ford, MacArthur, Carnegie Rockefeller, Hewlett |
| Bayero University               | Nigeria      | \$7,158,000  | MacArthur                                      |
| Obafemi Awolowo University      | Nigeria      | \$7,000,000  | Carnegie                                       |
| Cheikh Anta Diop University     | Senegal      | \$6,780,000  | Gates  |
| Cairo University                | Egypt        | \$6,614,000  | Ford, Mellon                                   |
| University of Jos               | Nigeria      | \$6,300,000  | Carnegie                                       |

# Reciprocal Influence

- foundations and select universities in Africa have influenced each other for a long period of time
- have established a competitive field which puts pressure on weaker institutions.
- Without other competing financial contributors or governmental constraints, the foundations were effective in asserting their leadership in the field of higher education, particularly in former British colonies.

# Power Asymmetry

*“Is it a partnership of foundations or is it a partnership between foundations and African universities? How are we involved in defining the agenda and so forth?”*

Vice-Chancellor of an African university

(incidentally he was the vice chancellor of one of the universities that were benefiting financially and otherwise from the Partnership)

# Power Asymmetry

- The unequal nature of the Partnership was a concern for grantees who always questioned their role and share of participation.
- This difference of status had a bearing on how the agenda was defined.
- Partnership remained a partnership of foundations, as several foundation staff indicated.
- Thus, running the risk of being perceived as dominating the agenda or imposing an American worldview on African universities was always a consideration.

# Institutional Culture as obstacles

*“I think first and foremost the biggest problems we have is that foundations come with their cultures...and these traditional cultures can be as rigid as any bureaucracy. In fact, can almost be beyond, in terms of the rigidities, almost like a culture, it’s almost like different princely orders.”*

Tade Akin Aina, former program director, Carnegie Corporation of New York

# Conclusion

- Impressive **array of strategies and solutions** geared towards supporting the agenda to reform and support higher education on the continent
- Challenges remain in the **power relations'** between U.S. foundations and African universities that often result in unsatisfactory results for both actors
  - **Institutional dynamic** at work in this relationship is **flawed** from the moment grantees are asked to operate within the framework that grantors established.
  - Grantees **desperation for winning a grant** and therefore submitting an application that is in line with the predetermined strategy, adapting imperfectly to a donor's criteria with **less attention given to own strategies** that are likely to have greater impact.
  - Lack of attention to institutional change on the side of both players is thus the consequence of both **donors' substantive direction and authority** and **grantees' limited access to funds** and obligation to compete with others.

# Questions to consider

- Can grantees retain more ownership of the agenda itself and still receive funding?
- Can grantees be consulted when a foundation establishes a specific strategy or seeks a desired target of change?
- If change does not occur, to what degree has the interaction between the grantor and the grantee hampered the program, and can this be remedied at some point?

# Recommendations

The lessons learned may suggest alternative ways that can foster a more efficient relationship between donors and recipients

- Through **collaborative projects** geared towards a common goal.
- Through **regional cooperation** as a more effective framework
- By helping grantmakers refocus on the core definition of philanthropy (giving and not expecting something in return)
- By empowering the grant recipient in the Global South towards a more meaningful relationship with the donor.
- By integrating the concept of equal partnership into the grant-making / grant-receiving relationship.

# Thank you

- [fabrice.jaumont@nyu.edu](mailto:fabrice.jaumont@nyu.edu)
- Jaumont, F. *Unequal Partners. American Foundations and Higher Education Development in Africa.*
- Foreword by Vartan Gregorian
- Palgrave-MacMillan, 2016

