Philanthropy and Education: New Actors, New Partnerships, New Roles

Natasha Ridge, Ed.D.
Executive Director, Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research
Outline

- Growth and development of the global philanthropic sector
- Philanthropic involvement in the education sector
- New actors
- New partnerships
- New roles
- Promises and pitfalls of increased philanthropic involvement in the education sector
Growth and Development of the Global Philanthropic Sector

- Over 50% of “philanthropy ‘infrastructure’ organizations” created since 2000 (Spero, 2014)

- Approximately 87,000 foundations in the US, 85,000 in Western Europe and 35,000 in Eastern Europe (Foundation Center, 2014)

- Increase in foundations based in the Global South - 10,000 in Mexico, 2,000 in China and at least 1,000 in Brazil (UNDP, 2012)

- Move from grant giving philanthropy to venture philanthropy/impact investing

- Move from funding programmatic work to policy advocacy “muscular philanthropy”

- Move from being independent to seeking global partnerships, such as with the World Bank, UN and the OECD
Philanthropic Activity in the Education Sector

Education & Youth: 75% (US: 55%, UAE: 52%)
Health: 45% (US: 43%, UAE: 52%)
Environment: 18% (US: 37%, UAE: 27%)
Arts & Culture: 16% (US: 16%, UAE: 9%)
Infrastructure: 6% (US: 6%, UAE: 9%)
Family Well-being: 9% (US: 37%, UAE: 27%)

Foundation focus areas in the US & UAE

Education: 35%
Children & Youth: 37%
Health: 39%
Social Welfare: 39%
The Elderly: 24%

Foundation focus areas in the UK
New Actors

- Big philanthropy / mega donors
  - World’s 27 largest foundations have combined assets of more than $360 billion
  - Foundation spending on global development increased from $3 billion in 2000 to approx. $10 billion in 2016 (Vidal, 2016)

- State-funded philanthropic organizations
  - Established by government and semi-government entities but are legally separate entities from national governments.
  - Dubai Cares, Education Above All

- Venture philanthropists and philanthropic investment funds
New Partnerships

- Development of philanthropic networks

- New relationships between private foundations and international development organizations
  - UNESCO, World Bank, OECD

- State-funded foundations working with private foundations, governments and international development organizations
## New Partnerships

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<tr>
<th>NGOs, non-profits, and universities</th>
<th>EDUCATE A CHILD</th>
<th>DUBAI CARES</th>
<th>KING KHALID FOUNDATION</th>
<th>REACH OUT TO ASIA</th>
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<tr>
<td>Corporations &amp; private family foundations</td>
<td>Credit Suisse, Vodafone, ExxonMobil, Qatar Airways</td>
<td>Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Scholastic</td>
<td>Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, ExxonMobil</td>
<td>Qatar Petroleum, Vodafone</td>
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New Roles

“OSF programs and partners are working with partners to make some specific change in the world: to change a particular government policy, to increase the power of a particular constituency...or to change public understanding of an issue” - OSF 2017 Budget

- Global, regional and local policy entrepreneurs
  - From 2010-2015 the Gates Foundation spending on advocacy accounted for 20% of its education budget (Tompkins-Stange, 2016)

- Knowledge sponsors, producers and disseminators
  - OSF, Qatar Foundation WISE Initiative

- Active participants in global and national education agenda setting
  - OSF, Gates Foundation, Dubai Cares, Qatar Foundation
Potential and Pitfalls of Increased Philanthropic Involvement in the Education Sector

- **Potential** - more agile; less bureaucratic; potentially more efficient; able to quickly mobilize large amounts of funds, new or alternative source of funding rather than bilateral or multilateral aid; possibly new solutions to old problems

- **Pitfalls** - outsized influence on global policy making, agendas potentially at odds with free, quality education for all, weakening of national, state and global education governance structures, lack of accountability for failed polices/programs, issues with long term sustainability, preference for private sector and quick win solutions and corporatization of aid and development
Thank you

For more information contact:
Natasha Ridge: natasha@alqasimifoundation.rak.ae