

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

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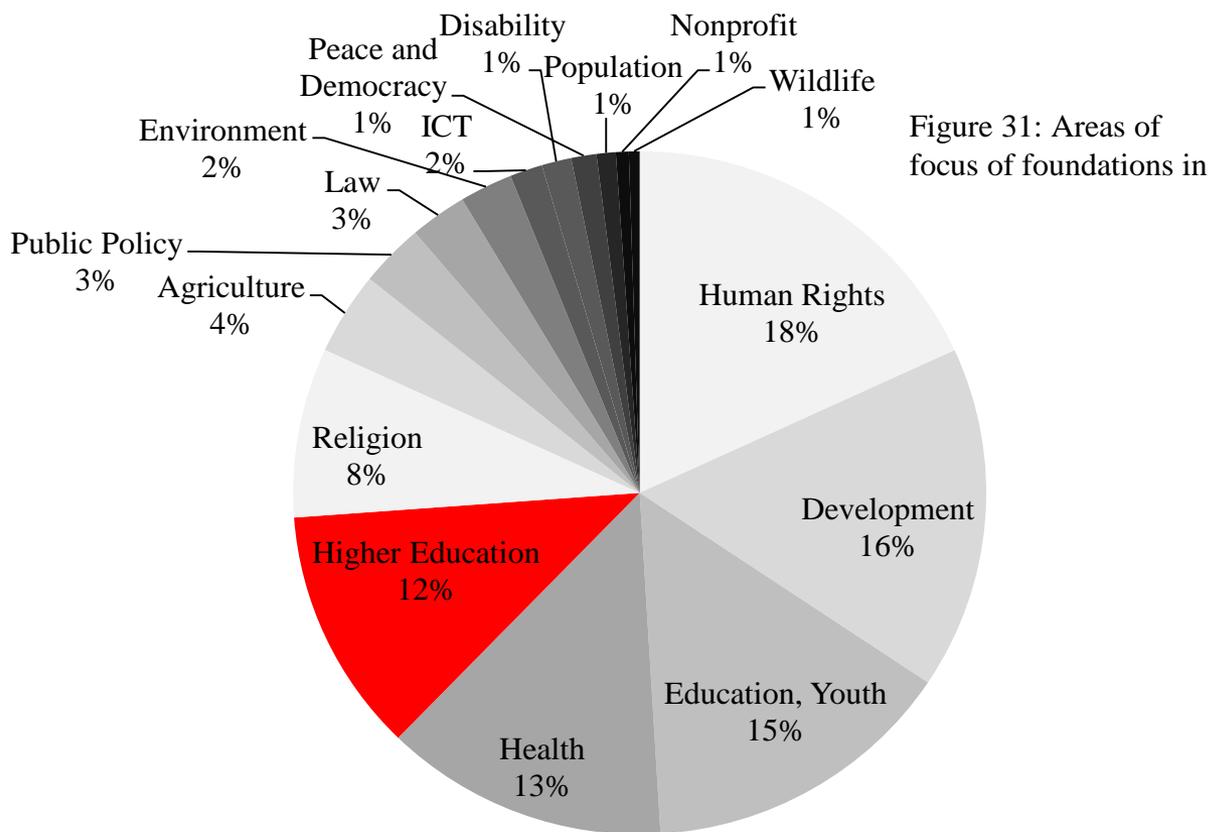
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Setting the Agenda

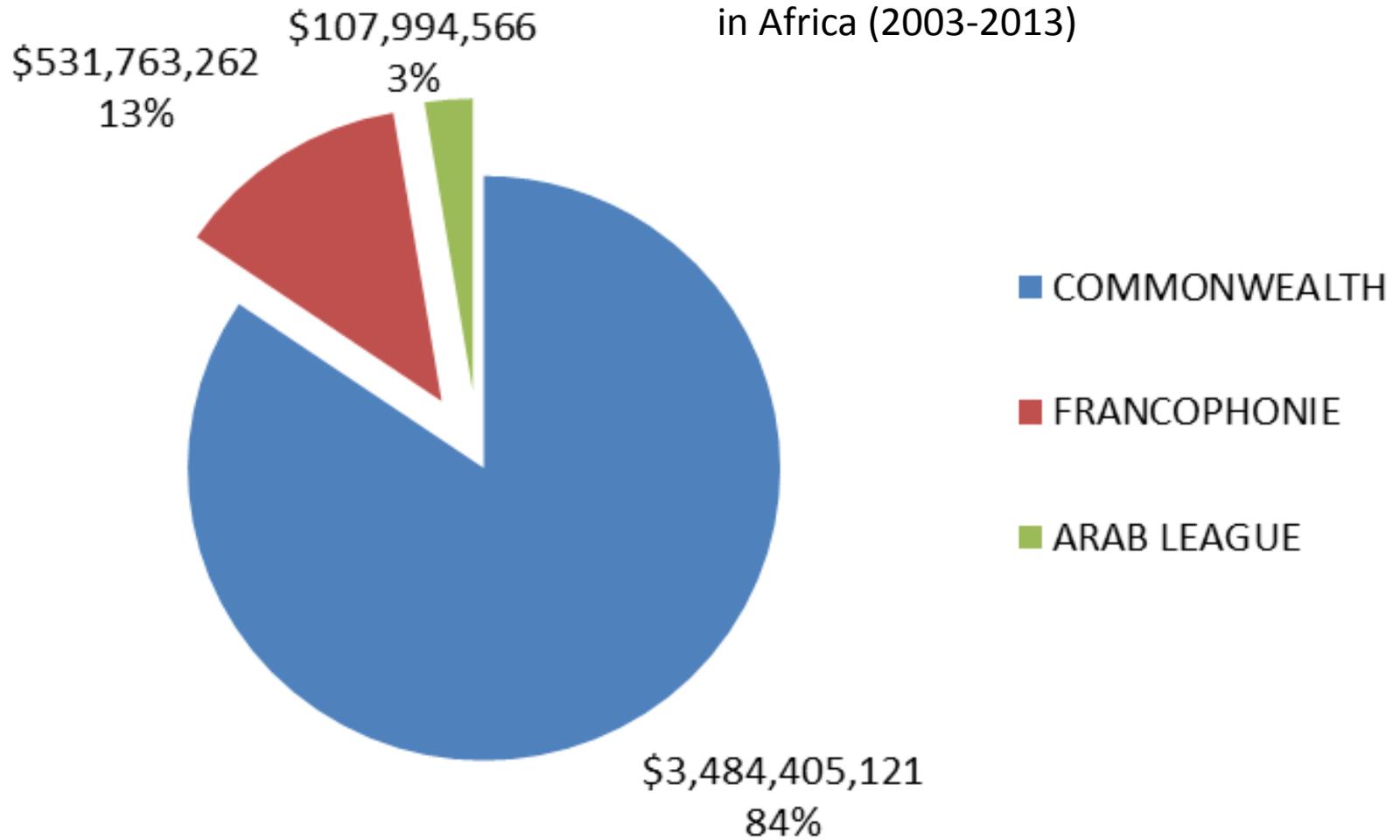
- US Foundations play a role in tracing the path of development for universities, steering, directing, and supporting priorities that they set for the sector.
- donor agencies have become actively involved in setting the agenda for development
- African universities define their missions and align their 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)

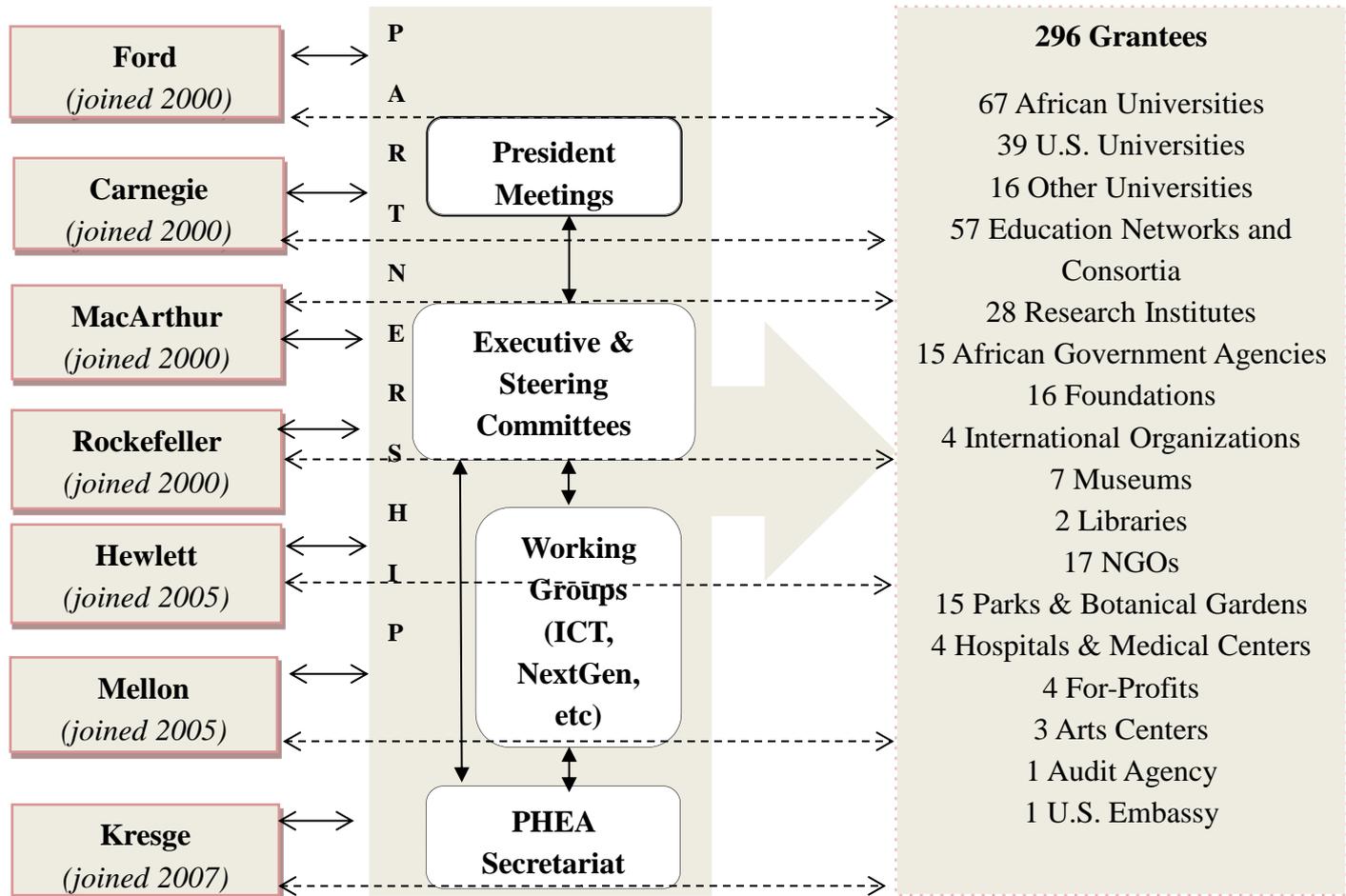


Table 2: Top U.S. Grantmakers to African Higher Education Organizations (2003-2013)

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
- Jaumont, F. *Unequal Partners. American Foundations and Higher Education Development in Africa.*
- Foreword by Vartan Gregorian
- Palgrave-MacMillan, 2016

