



Ford Foundation records, Africa and Middle East Programs (AME), Program Staff Files

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator:	Ford Foundation
Title:	Ford Foundation records, Africa and Middle East Programs (AME), Program Staff Files
ID:	FA503
Date [inclusive]:	1965-1976, 1987-1994
Physical Description:	1.71 Cubic Feet 4 letter document boxes, 1 half-letter document box.
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	<p>The Africa and Middle East (AME) Program originated in 1958 as the Near East and Africa Program, a regional program area within Overseas Development. It became part of the International Division in 1966 when the Overseas Development Program, along with other international Foundation programs became part of one International Division. A subsequent restructuring of the International Division occurred in 1980-1981 and led to the creation of the Developing Countries Program (DCP). Three new regional offices serving Africa and the Middle East were created within DCP: Middle East and North Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa, and West Africa. In 1989, the AME Program was reconstituted as a full program and continued to administer programs in the three regions in addition to a fourth, newly created Study Group on South Africa. The Africa and Middle East Programs files span in date from 1965-1976 and 1987-1994. The collection consists of the combined office files of AME program staff members Robert H. Edwards, Dr. John D. Gerhart, Steven M. Riskin, and Anna Wadia. File contents include correspondence, memoranda, meeting and conference minutes and agendas, reports, briefing papers, and information about various trips of Foundation Trustees to Africa. The bulk of the files are meeting and discussion group records from staff participation at internal Foundation meetings and external discussion groups facilitating collaboration with other philanthropies for common goals. One highlight is the rapporteur notes documenting the Foundation's 1989 Human Rights Meeting in Dakar, Senegal. The notes contain an overview of the Foundation's work to date in the field of Human Rights.</p>

Preferred Citation

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Organizational History

The Africa and Middle East (AME) Program originated in 1958 as the Near East and Africa Program, a regional program area within Overseas Development. It became part of the International Division in 1966 when the Overseas Development Program, along with other international Foundation programs became part of one International Division. A subsequent restructuring of the International Division occurred in 1980-1981 and led to the creation of the Developing Countries Program (DCP). Three new regional offices serving Africa and the Middle East were created within DCP: Middle East and North Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa, and West Africa. In 1989, the AME Program was reconstituted as a full program and continued to administer programs in the three regions in addition to a fourth, newly created Study Group on South Africa.

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Biographical Note

Robert H. Edwards joined the Foundation as a Program Officer in 1966, and rose to be Head of the Middle East and Africa Program. He left the Foundation in 1977 to serve as President of Carleton College.

Dr. John D. Gerhart received his M.P.A. from Princeton in 1969 and began his career at Ford Foundation as an Economic Advisor to the Government of Botswana. Over the next thirty years, he held a variety of positions at the Foundation. From Program Advisor for Rural Development in Kenya, he moved to Cairo in 1980 to work as the Ford Foundation Representative for North Africa and the Middle East. In 1985, he was named Deputy Vice President for Developing Countries, a position that he held until 1989 when he became Director for Africa and the Middle East. He worked as the Foundation's representative in South Africa from 1989 to 1993. He died in July 2003.

Steven M. Riskin worked for the Ford Foundation for eight years between 1985 and 1992, initially as an Assistant Program Officer for AME Programs and then as Program Officer.

Anna Wadia succeeded Mr. Riskin as Program Officer in 1992 and served until 1994.

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Scope and Contents

The Africa and Middle East Programs files span 1965-1976 and 1987-1994. The collection is comprised of the combined office files of Robert H. Edwards, Dr. John D. Gerhart, Steven M. Riskin, and Anna Wadia. The largest group of records is Series I: Meetings and Discussion Group Records. The files consist of meeting-related records, memoranda concerning grants and politics, and reports. These document staff participation in Foundation meetings and in discussion groups that brought together representatives from different philanthropies to discuss common goals. A highlight from this series are the Rapporteur Notes from a 1989 Dakar Human Rights Meeting which provide an overview of the Foundation's work in the field of Human Rights.

Series III. Reports, 1965-1990 (bulk 1989-1990)

This series includes a 1965 report on "Planning the Receipt of Aid" and a 1990 program strategy paper on "Planning for Democratic Governance and Public Policy in Eastern and Southern Africa."

Series IV. Trustee-Related Records, 1991-1992

This series documents visits by several Foundation trustees to Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal and Zimbabwe. The files hold correspondence, notes, travel agenda, briefing material, and biographical information about the trustees.

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged into 4 series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Ford Foundation archive was deposited at RAC in 2011. Ford Foundation records, correspondence, reports, program files and officers papers were transferred to, and accessioned by, RAC beginning in 2011. Accessions continue as necessary.

Provenance

This collection combines the office files of four Africa and Middle East Programs staff members: Robert H. Edwards (1965-1977), John Gerhart (1988-1992), Steven M. Riskin (1985-1994) and Anna Wadia (1993-1994). The Ford Foundation Archives received the office files in five accessions in 2004 and 2010. Ms. Wadia's files evidently were misattributed to Stephen Weissman and Mora Mclean when they later were packed and sent to storage by program staff.

Processing Information

The original volume of 8 cubic feet was reduced during processing to 1.8 cubic feet.

Duplicates, reference files, and chronological files primarily consisting of form rejection letters for unsolicited grant requests were not retained.

Conditions Governing Use

Completion of a use agreement is required prior to providing scholarly access. See RAC Head of Reference (or applicable designee) for details. Ford Foundation holds title, copyright and literary rights in the collection, in so far as it holds them. The Rockefeller Archive Center has authority to grant permission to cite and publish material from the collection for scholarly purposes. Permission to publish extensive excerpts, or material in its entirety, will be referred to the Ford Foundation.

Conditions Governing Access

Records more than 10 years old are open for research with select materials restricted as noted. Brittle or damaged items are available at the discretion of RAC.

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Related Materials

Separated Materials

Appendix A: Reports – Unpublished reports written by Ford Foundation staff and consultants were removed from their original folders, scanned and transferred to the Archives' collection of staff and consultant reports. See Appendix A for a list of these reports and their specific assigned number. The reports are listed in alphabetical order by author. The assigned number may be used to access reports in the online catalog.

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Collection Inventory

Meeting and Discussion Group Records, 1966-1976, 1987-1992

Scope and Contents

This series is comprised of correspondence, agenda, rapporteur notes and memoranda from Foundation staff who attended meetings and discussion groups. The records document internal Foundation meetings and working groups such as division conferences, as well as external meetings, conferences and working groups where Foundation staff met with representatives of other foundations or foreign governments. There also are files for the Donors in African Education working group and a file on the Ford Foundation's relations with the government of Sudan.

Title/Description	Instances	
Law and Development Conference -- reports (separated) and outline of possible topics, 1966-1968	box 1	folder 1
American Society of International Law -- Panel on U.S. Law Schools and Developing Countries by Robert H. Edwards, 1968 February 15	box 1	folder 2
International Legal Center -- Research and Training Committee (1 of 3), 1968-1975	box 1	folder 3

International Legal Center -- Research and Training Committee (2 of 3), 1968-1975	box 1	folder 4
International Legal Center -- Research and Training Committee (3 of 3), 1968-1975	box 1	folder 5
Committee on Women -- memoranda, reports, notes regarding the position of women at the Ford Foundation, 1971-1974	box 1	folder 6
International Division Conference, September 1975 (1 of 2), 1975 September-December	box 1	folder 7
International Division Conference, September 1975 (2 of 2), 1975 April-September	box 1	folder 8
Committee on Women -- memoranda and discussion papers on women's programming at the Ford Foundation, 1975-1976	box 2	folder 1
West Coast Trip -- Notes and Schedule, 1976	box 2	folder 2
Council on Foundations -- notes, correspondence and background for a meeting of the committee on international grantmaking, 1987-1988	box 2	folder 3
World Conference on Philanthropy, 1988-1989	box 2	folder 4
1989 Dakar Human Rights Meeting -- Rapporteur Notes, 1989	box 2	folder 5
Program Review 1989 -- Rapporteur Notes, 1989 January	box 2	folder 6
Donors in African Education, 1989-1990	box 2	folder 7
Interview Skills Seminar, 1989-1990	box 2	folder 8
Sudan Government Relations, 1990-1991	box 2	folder 9
Reproductive Health Meeting, 1990 June-December	box 2	folder 10
Sterling Forest/Tuxedo Governance Meeting, 1990 July-October	box 2	folder 11
African Development Finance Conference, 1990-1991	box 2	folder 12
Africa LEIG Meeting, 1990-1991	box 3	folder 1
Donors in African Education, 1991-1993	box 3	folder 2
African Museums Meeting, 1991 March-August	box 3	folder 3
MacArthur Foundation Meeting, 1991 March 4	box 3	folder 4
Council on Foundations, Chicago, Illinois, 1991 March-April	box 3	folder 5
Africa/Middle East Regional Program Review, 1991-1992	box 3	folder 6
Reproductive Health Meeting, 1991 August 7	box 3	folder 7
Rural Poverty and Resources Meeting, 1991-1992	box 3	folder 8
African Rural Poverty Meeting, 1991-1992	box 3	folder 9
Bellagio Conference, 1991-1992	box 3	folder 10
Nelson Mandela Luncheon, 1991 October-December		

	box 3	folder 11
Harvard Center for International Affairs -- Political Liberalization in Africa, 1991-1992	box 3	folder 12
DAE Working Group on HE, 1991-1992	box 3	folder 13
Africa Staff Meeting, 1991 December	box 3	folder 14
Worldwide International Affairs Program Meeting, 1991-1992	box 3	folder 15
South Africa, 1992 January-February	box 3	folder 16
International Conference on Culture and Development, 1992 February-May	box 3	folder 17
Namibia/South Africa, 1992 April-August	box 3	folder 18
John Gerhart Meeting Correspondence, 1992 May-November	box 3	folder 19
South Africa Visit, 1992 September	box 3	folder 20
South Africa Trip, 1992 October-December	box 3	folder 21

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Memoranda, 1965-1994, bulk 1985-1994

Scope and Contents

This series combines the files of three past program officers. Anna Wadia's memo files for 1992-1994 focus on grant proposals or grant-related meetings. Her files also contain correspondence between program staff. Robert Edward's files hold Foundation memoranda on the U.S. Balance of Payments (1965-1968), and Steven Riskin's files describe the political situation and repercussions for ordinary Sudanese during the civil war in Sudan (1985-1992) and South African television and newspaper ownership (1992-1994).

Title/Description	Instances	
U.S. Balance of Payments, 1965-1968	box 4	folder 1
Sudan, 1985-1992	box 4	folder 2
Reflections on Foundation Programming Related to Disaster Preparedness and Response, 1989 February 10	box 4	folder 3
Higher Education in Africa, 1989-1993	box 4	folder 4
7th United Nations North American Regional NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine, June 27-29, 1990, 1990 July 9	box 4	folder 5
South Africa Media, 1992-1994	box 4	folder 6
Anna Wadia Memoranda File -- Meetings, Grant Updates (1 of 4), 1992	box 4	folder 7
Anna Wadia Memoranda File (2 of 4), 1993 January-July	box 4	folder 8
Anna Wadia Memoranda File (3 of 4), 1993 August-December	box 4	folder 9

Anna Wadia Memoranda File (4 of 4), 1994

box 4

folder 10

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Reports, 1965, 1989-1990

Scope and Contents

This series includes a 1965 report on "Planning the Receipt of Aid" and a 1990 program strategy paper on "Planning for Democratic Governance and Public Policy in Eastern and Southern Africa."

Title/Description	Instances	
"Planning the Receipt of Aid" by O. S. Knowles, 1965 August	box 4	folder 11
"Programming for Democratic Governance and Public Policy in Eastern and Southern Africa: A Program Strategy Paper", 1990 January 2	box 4	folder 12

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Trustee-Related Records, 1991-1992

Scope and Contents

This series documents visits by several Foundation trustees to Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal and Zimbabwe. The files hold correspondence, notes, travel agenda, briefing material, and biographical information about the trustees.

Title/Description	Instances	
Frances Fergusson Visit to Southern Africa, 1988-1992	box 4	folder 13
Senegal, 1991 August-October	box 4	folder 14
Preiskel/Ridings Africa Visit, 1991 September-November	box 4	folder 15
Nigeria, 1991 September-October	box 4	folder 16
Zimbabwe, 1991 September-October	box 4	folder 17
Namibia Visit, 1992 January-February	box 4	folder 18

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