

Through the Lens of Brazil: The Changing Dynamics of Human Rights and Global Philanthropy in Emerging Powers

Funder Learning Visit to Rio de Janeiro
20-22 May 2014

The Culture of Giving, Human Rights Philanthropy, and Emerging Powers

Rapid economic growth in the BRICS and other quickly developing countries has spurred significant growth in giving—for charity and social justice. What are the traditions of giving in the emerging powers? What does the current and shifting landscape of local philanthropy look like? What are the prospects for expanding local human rights philanthropy? How real is a perception that international grantmakers are reducing funding because national wealth is increasing? In what ways have restrictive legislative policies impacted the flow of local and foreign funding, and how have funders responded?

Speakers: **Ana Valeria Araujo**, Executive Director, Brazil Fund for Human Rights

Anisha Chugh, Programme Officer, Networking and Advocacy, South Asia Women's Fund

Christen Dobson, Program Director, Research and Policy, IHRFG

Moderator: **Ana Borges Pinho**, Knowledge Management Coordinator, WINGS—Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support

- Ana Borges Pinho provided some context on the culture of giving in the BRICS.
 - WINGS and the Foundation center recently launched a report on philanthropy in the BRICS.
 - Wealth has been growing in Brazil, and data suggests that philanthropy is growing in emerging economies as well.
 - WINGS has found a strong correlation between the growth of philanthropy and the emergence of donor networks or support organizations
 - As mentioned throughout this conference, the caveat is that philanthropy is often aimed at short-term poverty alleviation, service provision, or children and youth, and not at social change
 - Many of the newly wealthy are closely linked to their governments and are hesitant to oppose them for fear of retribution
 - A restrictive foreign funding law, requiring NGOs to register as “foreign agents,” has reduced international philanthropy in Russia.
 - Brazil has imposed high taxes on philanthropic sector.
 - Historically, foreign funders have been key in fighting for human rights in the Global South, but they have been leaving emerging economies as the countries are seen as middle-income
 - Local funders (Dalit Foundation in India, Brazil Human Rights Fund in Brazil) are emerging to work on human rights funding.

- It is easier for donors to support human rights causes abroad than at home, where activists are seen as protecting criminals.
- Christen Dobson shared statistics on the funding landscape in the BRICS.
 - IHRFG has partnered with the Foundation Center to look at foundation giving for human rights. She brought in statistics to share from Brazil China, India, Nigeria, Russia, SA, Turkey:
 - In 2010, South Africa received the most funding for human rights, followed by India, then Brazil, and Turkey received the least
 - In 2011, India received the most, followed by South Africa, then Russia
 - The primary cause of the increase in funding for India was the inclusion of one time grants from Google to combat human trafficking made in 2011. This example shows the significant impact of one new funder supporting this issue.
 - Turkey received the least human rights funding in both 2010 and 2011
 - Spotlight on Brazil:
 - Of the top 10 funders, 3 are Brazilian
 - Top issues: equality and freedom from discrimination, environmental and resource rights, and health and well-being
 - Top funders for Brazil by dollar amount are the Ford Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Open Society Foundations, and Brazil Human Rights Fund
 - Top funders by number of grants are Ford Foundation, Brazil Human Rights Fund, and Socio-Environmental Fund CASA
 - Spotlight on China:
 - Top funders: National Endowment for Democracy, Ford Foundation, Open Society Foundations, and the John D. And Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
 - Top issues supported: expression and information rights; environmental and resource rights; and access to justice
 - Conclusions:
 - South Africa and India receive the most funding for human rights among emerging powers
 - Turkey receives the least
 - Data fluctuations show the impact of new funders entering the landscape, the impact of a few large grants on overall funding totals, and the importance of funders submitting data on annually
 - In the coming months, IHRFG will release an enhanced online map to examine grantmaking for human rights, a public map to show the funding landscape, and key findings on 2011 data
- Anisha Chugh provided some background on the culture of giving in India.
 - India has been an aid recipient since the 1950s.
 - The 1990s saw a lot of progressive donors coming in with funding for women's and human rights. Simultaneously, the era of liberalization and the Look East policy saw a consumer-driven middle class emerge.
 - From 2001 onwards, came the India Shining campaign, which has led to a growth in nationalism that is entrenched in patriarchal values and opposed to diversity.
 - This also led to the Indian government significantly cutting down on receiving bilateral aid and in fact became a donor itself, especially in Afghanistan and Africa.
 - Philanthropy in India:
 - Philanthropy is not a new concept, but social justice philanthropy is nascent.

- The state is the largest funder, but their funds are not easily accessible.
- Human rights funding and controversial work (sex work, LGBT rights) are dependent on international donors
- All NGOs or charitable organizations with cultural, economic, religious, or social programs have to register under FCRA—the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act—in order to receive foreign funding. According to a 2010 amendment to the act, any organizations engaging in any “political action” such as strikes will be revoked. As such, according to the 2013 report from the Ministry of Home Affairs, implementing the FCRA has led to the revocation of the legal status of around 4,000 NGOs.
- The Companies Act of 2013, implemented in April 2014, mandates that companies of a certain size spend 2% of their three-year average annual profit toward corporate social responsibility (CSR). This act is seen as quite radical by many, as it makes India among the first nations to have social welfare spending as part of company statute by law. Around 8,000 companies would fall under the ambit of the act, and this mandate would translate into an estimated CSR spending of INR 12,000-15,000 annually. However, corporations and civil society organizations are quite wary of each other. It is too early to tell whether the act will benefit CSOs (especially those working on human rights issues). But it will surely affect the politics of aid within the country.
 - Trends:
 - Domestic philanthropy is growing and goes for welfare
 - International development assistance for women’s rights has declined sharply
 - Existing donors have decreased funding for core support in favor of project-specific funds with quantifiable results
 - What are the prospects for expanding local human rights philanthropy in India?
 - Given the current political context not only in India, but in the entire South Asia Region, there is clearly a disjuncture between the ruling governments and civil society. The challenge is to see how we as human rights funders can help bridge this gap.
- Ana Valeria Araujo described the philanthropic landscape in Brazil
 - Philanthropic organizations are the oldest form of civil society in Brazil, but they have been largely focused on charity and poverty alleviation.
 - The concept of CSR and private social investments became more regular in the 1990s.
 - Corporate philanthropists generally invest in priorities that are easier and less controversial than human rights. Corporate actors also tend to establish and support their own projects, rather than funding external NGOs. It is difficult for human rights organizations to access funds from them.
 - The Brazil HR Fund was formed as a way to complement international funding and mobilize local resources to support local human rights organizations.
 - CASA, Baobab, ELAS Fund, and a few community foundations represent the trend of local human rights organizations in Brazil.
 - However, international funders are still the major players in Brazil.
 - These local funders have formed the independent network of funds for social justice.

- All have to raise funds for grantmaking.
- Funders have helped establish a strong human rights community in Brazil. As donors pull back, human rights organizations are closing or merging.
- Human rights organizations must educate Brazilian society on the relevance of their work, but they also must count on international donors to sustain the progress already made and ensure that rights are not overlooked.

Discussion and Q&A

- GIFE is an affinity group of foundations, institutes, and enterprises. Though all are called “foundations,” they operate very differently from foundations in Europe and the US. Most operate their own programs and don’t fund human rights. NGOs have become synonymous with corruption in Brazilian society. It will take a long time for funders to change these perceptions.
- The Independent Network of Funds for Social Justice formed because it is impossible to get anything done separately. In addition to collaboration, it is key to continue support for human rights organizations.
 - The network emerged in an effort to increase support for social justice funding.
 - To be effective, networks must constantly be in communication and seek their common goal despite disagreements.
 - On a practical level, the network gives visibility to these smaller public funders.
 - The network has developed communications initiatives and joint fundraising campaigns, along with shared calls for proposals.
- The Instituto Betty e Jacob Lafer has been one of the few private foundations supporting human rights in Brazil. What has it been like having those conversations with other family foundations?
 - Ines Lafer: We have not generally spoken with other foundations or institutions, but with friends, family, and other connections who might be interested in our work.
- Perhaps the reason civil society appears to be fragmented is because NGOs are competing for limited funds available. Grantees are often hesitant to share information with one another. This is true in Sri Lanka and Bolivia as well as the emerging powers discussed here. How can international funders as a group influence policy so there are more resources for NGOs in emerging powers?

Panelist Biographies:



Ana Valeria Araujo
Executive Director, Brazil Human Rights Fund

Ana Valéria, a Brazilian attorney, is the founding Executive Director of the Brazil Human Rights Fund, a position she has held since 2006. Prior to this, Ana served as the Executive Director of the Rainforest Foundation where she developed advocacy, policy and educational strategies to promote the rights of Indigenous peoples in Latin American countries. Ana began her career in Washington, D.C., as a human rights intern at the Indian Law Resource Center before she returned to Brazil in 1989 to work for the Nucleus for Indigenous Rights (NDI), the first Brazilian NGO to bring cases on behalf of Indigenous peoples to the country’s Federal Courts. Ana Valéria graduated from the University of Rio de Janeiro State in 1984 and received her Master’s in International Legal Studies from the Washington College Law at American University in 1987.



Ana Paula Borges Pinho

Knowledge Management Coordinator, Worldwide Initiatives for Sustainable Development (WINGS)

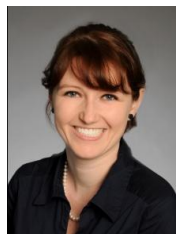
Ana has been the Knowledge Management Coordinator for Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support (WINGS) since 2011, where she runs philanthropy support programs. She has worked for grassroots and international non-governmental organizations in Brazil, doing research, administration, and coordination of projects on gender, adult education, and fair trade. Ana's last position was an internship at Amnesty International in London, where she worked on human rights issues in Brazil. Ana holds a bachelor's degree in international relations and a Master's degree in development studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science.



Anisha Chugh

Programme Officer, Networking and Outreach, South Asia Women's Fund

Anisha has been working with South Asia Women's Fund as Programme Officer for Networking and Outreach since March 2011. Some of the key programmes that she has undertaken are supervising the Resource Mapping project - Rights, Shares and Claims; the thematic grants programme on the right to safe and secure movement; as well as coordinating and planning all capacity building trainings for the grantee-partners on applying a rights-based approach. Prior to this, she also worked with an indigenous human rights grantmaking institution, the Dalit Foundation based in New Delhi. She has a Master's degree in modern Indian history from the University of Delhi and a Master's degree in governance and development from the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex.



Christen Dobson

Program Director, Research and Policy, International Human Rights Funders Group

Prior to joining IHRFG, Christen was a consultant with the Social Science Research Council's Gender and Security program. Christen has also worked with UNIFEM's End Violence against Women Program, Safe Horizon's Anti-Trafficking Program and Global Youth Connect. She has volunteered with Cambodian NGO Khemara, The Project to End Human Trafficking, and the U.S. National Committee for UNIFEM. Christen holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies and Japanese from Mount Union College and a Master of Arts degree of International Affairs with a concentration in human rights from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University in New York.