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**Mapping the Human Rights Donor Landscape: Where Does it Lead Us?**

July 15, 2014

1:45 – 3:15pm

***Session Organizers:***

- Nadia van der Linde, Coordinator, Red Umbrella Fund
- Anne Gathumbi, Director, OSF-SHARP
- Zohra Moosa, Director of Programmes, Mama Cash

***Facilitator:***

- Julia Greenberg, Consultant, The Fremont Center

***Panelists:***

- Christen Dobson, Research and Policy Program Director, IHRFG
- Ralf Jurgens, Director of Programs, Public Health Programs, Open Society Foundations
- Nadia van der Linde, Coordinator, Red Umbrella Fund

***Sponsors:***

- Red Umbrella Fund
- Open Society Foundations
- Mama Cash
- American Jewish World Service
- Philanthropy for Social Justice and Peace
- FCAA

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Julia Greenberg from the Fremont Center introduced the session by highlighting the wealth of mapping projects that exist in the field. As a consultant, she gets a mapping project request at least once a month. The discussion focused on how funders can prevent duplication of work, as well as strategies for how to best use mapping exercises.

Julia began the discussion with questions to each of the panelists: What did you map? Was it worth the time and money? Who did the map benefit? What were the mistakes and challenges? Name a positive result?

Ralf Jurgens from OSF underlined that “mapping” is a loaded word. His team decided to call it a “global directory,” that is put online so it can be shared. As a result, the biggest challenge was getting organizations who participated to be okay with OSF placing the mapping online.

Ralf and his team thought the map itself was the end goal, but they realized that they did not have the data to start. Mapping without data is a challenge so they went back and invested in generating the data.

Ralf found that the mapping exercise was really useful in a context in which funders were backing out of a country around a particular issue area. Mapping helped his team raise awareness of the issues and find new donors to collaborate with, so that OSF is not the only donor of a particular population. He stressed that mapping should not be the end goal. The end goal is to raise awareness of the issue and engage other donors. Lastly, if mappings are done correctly, they can sometimes break down silos.

Christen Dobsen from IHRFG spoke about the challenges throughout the IHRFG mapping exercise. She realized it is important to think about “mapping” as a field building exercise, and as a knowledge-building addition to the field. The word “mapping” makes it seem like a one-time thing. However it is important to look at mappings with long-term potential and pay attention to the uptake and research retention and continuation. For this reason, it is necessary to build in feedback loops. Christen highlighted one mistake in IHRFG’s initial mapping exercise: coding. Sex worker rights coding became a challenge and the way funders defined it varied a lot. IHRFG, the Foundation Center and other institutions were not communicating about how they were coding information about sex worker rights. They learned that they all need to speak to each other in their mapping, so in the future they are going to do very specific training for coders in processing grants data.

Nadia van der Linde from the Red Umbrella Fund spoke about a recent mapping exercise on funding for sex worker rights. The broad nature of the map brought up questions on how to limit a mapping, especially when you want to know everything. It also brought up questions on how to better coordinate mappings and be more efficient with the time and money. It is also necessary to consider amount of money and energy that is being put into the map once it is finished – how to use information to its fullest possibilities. Most importantly, funders’ mapping needs must be just as useful to communities as it is to the funder.

The session divided into break-out groups. Each group produced a set of recommendations to make to IHRFG and other affinity groups on key issues around mapping.

Summary of break-out group recommendations:

- More collaboration between organizations is needed
- Have a web-based platform where funders can have access to mappings – i.e. a sort of Mapping of Maps.
- A map is only as useful as the information it contains. Be more deliberate and intentional with working with affinity groups before going through a mapping exercise
- Equitable agenda setting is key: Who is setting the agenda? If the agenda is set from the top, it is hard for communities to say whether the mapping is relevant. It is also a power issue.
- Mappings should be locally owned.
- Recognize that mapping is only one component of looking at a particular issue.
- Mappings should take into account community resources, not just donor resources. This is more empowering.

- Resource tool for conducting mappings which includes a best practices for donor mapping.
- Respect confidentiality.

#### Feedback from panelists:

Christen agreed that research is only as good as the data that is put into it. IHRFG has found that as funders see how their data is represented on the IHRFG map they realize that a lot of their data has not been truly captured. This is because grant descriptions often only say “for general support.” Now funders are sending IHRFG more detailed descriptions, which means the research is getting better.

Nadia echoed that it is key to have the community own the mapping. It is also necessary for funders to find ways to disseminate the data in a community friendly way. Donor mappings are only one side of the story; it is important to also survey grantees and communities. Lastly, get community feedback on how you collected and presented the data: Was it helpful, understandable and useful?

Ralf also emphasized the point that it is really important to produce a public version of the mapping, even if it was intended to be for internal use.

**Mapping Resource Flows for Human Rights More Effectively**  
Recommendations for the International Human Rights Funders Group  
and Allied Affinity Groups  
July 23 Draft

During a session entitled: “Mapping the Human Rights Donor Landscape: Where Does It Lead Us?” at the June 2014 International Human Rights Funders Group (IHRFG) Meeting, participants developed a set of recommendations on how donor affinity groups can improve their important resource tracking efforts so that they are more useful to funders and human rights organizations.

The recommendations that follow are divided into two sets. The first are general recommendations to grantmakers. The second focuses on the role of affinity groups in facilitating and organizing resource tracking across intersecting fields such as human rights, LGBT rights, sexual and reproductive rights, and LGBT rights.

**Recommendation to human rights grantmakers:** Coordinate with Colleagues and Involve Community

- Communicate your intention to carry out a mapping of donor trends with colleague foundations and donor affinity groups *before* starting. Avoid duplication, burden on program officers and organizations (who field multiple requests for interviews and data annually) and build upon work that has already been completed.
- Involve activists and organizations working on the issue you are mapping in the planning process. Ensure the data you are collecting is relevant and useful for their fundraising and programming efforts.
- Collect qualitative data that reflects perspectives and stories of activists and communities addressing the issues or populations being mapped.
- Make reports and raw data accessible (for free) to the communities being mapped, with special attention to overcoming language and technology barriers
- Consider developing simple fact sheets on key findings that are useful at the community level.

**Recommendations to the IHRFG and allied affinity groups** (FCAA, Funders for LGBT Issues, Funders on Population, Reproductive Health and Rights)

- Develop a common vision and practice for data collection to streamline the current practice, including coordination of data tracking tools across allied donor affinity groups to reduce the burden on program officers, grants managers and grantees.
- To ensure complete data sets, ask funders to submit data as part of affinity group membership requirements.
- Encourage funders to submit grant descriptions with sufficient description so that they can be properly coded and catalogued. Guidance on good practice for developing grant descriptions may enhance this process.

- Track spending on grantmaking at the intersection of human rights and related issues and fields (HIV, LGBT rights, anti-poverty work, etc.) to encourage collaboration across sectors.
- Include questions in resource tracking tools that generate stories and case studies with the potential to illustrate donor trends that are not yet visible in the quantitative data.
- Develop a set of best practices/indicators for foundation-specific resource mapping efforts.
- Encourage members to submit country- or issue-specific donor landscape reports that they have undertaken for their own work and catalogue them so they are accessible to other affinity group members as well as human rights organizations.
- Develop a “map of maps” that provides a comprehensive overview of what information is already tracked, by whom, and who to contact for more info (possibly in coordination with the Foundation Center).

### ***Biographies of Panelists:***



#### **Christen Dobson, Research and Policy Program Director, IHRFG**

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 in International Affairs with a concentration in human rights from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University in New York.



#### **Julia Greenberg, Consultant, The Fremont Center**

Julia Greenberg has been working on HIV/AIDS, human rights, and community development for over a decade. She currently works with The Fremont Center, a consulting partnership providing services for a range of organizations and foundations engaged in advancing a progressive response to the global AIDS crisis. As Associate Director of AIDS-Free World, she spearheaded advocacy and strategic litigation efforts to combat the homophobia and discriminatory laws fueling the epidemic in Jamaica and led a successful campaign to demand that the UN establish a new international agency for women. As Director of the Grants Department at American Jewish World Service (AJWS), she developed a program that provided small grants to 350 community organizations in Africa, Asia and Latin America. She is the currently Co-Chair of the Board of CHAMP (Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization project), a national network building a community-based movement bridging HIV/AIDS, human rights, and struggles for social, racial, and economic justice in the United States. She is also a member of the Program Committee of WJFF Radio, a community-run, hydro-powered radio station in Sullivan County, New York.



**Ralf Jurgens, Director of Programs, Public Health Programs, Open Society Foundations**

Ralf Jurgens is Director of Programs at the Open Society Public Health Program, providing oversight to strategy development and implementation, including designing and implementing tools and task teams in order to guide ongoing efforts and learning processes, and to ensure day-to-day management of tasks. Before his current role, he was Director of Law and Health Initiative in Public Health Programs where he oversaw work on using legal strategies to advance the health and human rights of marginalized and vulnerable people. Prior to joining the Open Society Foundations in 2012, Ralf co-founded and served as executive director of the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network. He has consulted on health policy and human rights for the International HIV/AIDS Alliance, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, the World Health Organization, and the International Affairs Directorate of Health Canada. Ralf is a member of the UNAIDS Reference Group on HIV and Human Rights, and of the World Health Organization's Strategic and Technical Advisory Committee for HIV/AIDS. He is the recipient of the International Rolleston Award and the Award for Action on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights. Ralf has a Master's degree in Law from McGill University and a Doctorate in Law from the University of Munich.



**Nadia van der Linde, Coordinator, Red Umbrella Fund**

Nadia van der Linde is the Coordinator of the Red Umbrella Fund, the first global grantmaking mechanism for and by sex workers. The Red Umbrella Fund was created in 2012 as a result of a four-year dialogue between a number of human rights funders and sex worker rights activists about how to more effectively support the human rights of sex workers. Previously, Nadia has worked with UNFPA in Thailand and Pakistan and with a number of sexual and reproductive rights networks and organizations.