Philanthropy in Emerging Markets

The culture of philanthropy – on individual and institutional levels – is both deeply rooted in history and in a perpetual state of change. We tend to consider philanthropy in U.S.-centric terms, partly because the culture of philanthropy is so well-established and robust here. However, considering global trends in philanthropy is increasingly more crucial in the field of development. The culture of philanthropy in emerging economies in particular has experienced exciting changes in recent years. Where governments and a small number of wealthy family foundations were relied upon in the past for the lion's share of financial support to the third sector, individual philanthropy is evolving as a more prevalent social norm and expectation in the Asia Pacific Region, Latin America, Eastern Europe, and elsewhere. One pattern that can be observed is a small number of very wealthy individuals acting as change agents in their regions. Just as key individuals in the U.S. seek to amplify the impact of giving by the ultra-wealthy through the Giving Pledge, others around the world are at the forefront of formalizing philanthropic frameworks in emerging economies.

While we might expect to see a steady increase in individual giving at both modest and transformational levels, we might also see an increase in individual giving through foundations. Financial Times reports that young, wealthy individuals in emerging markets are the fastest growing demographic for clients of family offices, and that charitable aims, rather than general investment portfolios, are an increasingly important aspect of wealth management. These individuals are not just looking to give money away, but to play an active role in formulating strategic philanthropy initiatives, often in the same vein as more professionalized foundations.

For more information and specific examples of activity in emerging economies, see:
- Forbes, 9/19/12
- Financial Times, 9/24/12
On the 10th anniversary of the International Day of Peace, Forest Whitaker, Oscar-winning actor, humanist, and Goodwill Ambassador of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) announced the formation the PeaceEarth Foundation. The mission of Whitaker's new foundation is to promote peace-building and community empowerment in areas of conflict worldwide. The PeaceEarth Foundation seeks to empower and inspire youth, women, and global citizens through conflict-resolution training programs and methodology, grassroots efforts, access to experts, social media, technology, content, and 21st century communication tools.

The PeaceEarth Foundation has formed partnerships with a number of organizations around the world to implement programs, initiatives, and campaigns to help societies impacted by conflict and violence. One such partner is Ericsson, an international provider of telecommunications equipment and data communications systems and services. Ericsson covers a range of technologies but specializes in mobile networks. They are collaborating with the PeaceEarth Foundation to provide Information and Communications Technology (ICT) solutions to schools in South Sudan and Uganda. The ICT solutions will enable the PeaceEarth Foundation to establish internet access in these conflict zones, and engage young people of the area in peaceful education initiatives. The partnership between the PeaceEarth Foundation and Ericsson encourages the idea that technology has a positive link to development. By establishing technology in areas affected by violence, the PeaceEarth Foundation hopes to expand education to promote peaceful conflict resolutions.

In addition to working with like-minded partners, the PeaceEarth Foundation uses its interactive website as a vehicle to empower citizens to resolve global conflict. PeaceEarth.org services as a platform to connect communities, practitioners, and scholars around the world and foster dialogue among them. The website also provides information about conflict zones, best practices in peace-building, and solutions to conflict.

To learn more about the PeaceEarth Foundation, please visit their website at www.peaceearth.org.

(Source: Reuters 9/23/2012; Yahoo News 9/21/2012)

How do you use LinkedIn? While many find the platform valuable for expanding their professional networks to find their next job, connect with old colleagues, and the like, LinkedIn is also increasingly meant to be leveraged to create positive social impact on a broader scale. Recently, LinkedIn announced Board Connect, a new platform feature that helps nonprofit leaders easily identify connections to potential board members. This new application of LinkedIn’s core business – connecting talent with opportunity at a massive scale – may have interesting applications for not only recruiting new non-profit board members, but also for building non-profit partnerships in a new way. Click here to explore the tool.

(Source: Forbes, 9/17/12)
Funders to Watch

New Members of the Giving Pledge

Eleven new members have recently signed the Giving Pledge, bringing the total number of families dedicating at least half their wealth to charity to 92.

Here’s a look at the 11 new members and their philanthropic interests.

Manoj Bhargava/Knowledge Charitable Foundation, Inc./Rural India Charitable Trust
Philanthropic interests include economic development, education, medical research, and public health.

Charles Bronfman/Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies/Charles R. Bronfman Prize Foundation
Philanthropic interests include education, genealogy, human services, international interests, and Jewish agencies and synagogues.

Daniel and Jennifer Gilbert
Philanthropic interests include economic development, medical research (Neurofibromatosis), and urban revitalization.

Reed Hastings and Patty Quillin
Philanthropic interests include charter schools, civil and human rights, the death penalty, and education.

Peter B. Lewis/The Lewis Foundation/The PBL Fund
Philanthropic interests include arts, business, civil rights, community recreation, economic development, education, Jewish agencies and synagogues, marijuana public policy and advocacy, media, museums, nonprofit management, philanthropy and voluntarism, and public affairs.

Gordon and Betty Moore/Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
Philanthropic interests include education, engineering and technology, environment conservatism, human services, philanthropic and voluntarism, and science.

Jonathan Nelson/Jonathan M. Nelson Family Foundation
Philanthropic interests include the arts, children and youth services, education, health organizations, human services, performing arts, and philanthropy and voluntarism.

Jorge and Darlene Perez
Philanthropic interests include the arts, education, and museums.

Claire and Leonard Tow/The Tow Foundation
Philanthropic interests include ALS research, cancer research, education, performing arts centers, public health, and youth crime violence prevention.

Philanthropic interests include blindness, developing countries, economically disadvantaged, eye diseases, health care, and hospitals.

Romesh and Kathleen Wadhwani/Wadhwani Foundation
Philanthropic interests include the arts, disasters, floods, education, human services, international affairs, and philanthropy and voluntarism.

(Source: GlassPockets.org)

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