



An overview of the global community philanthropy field

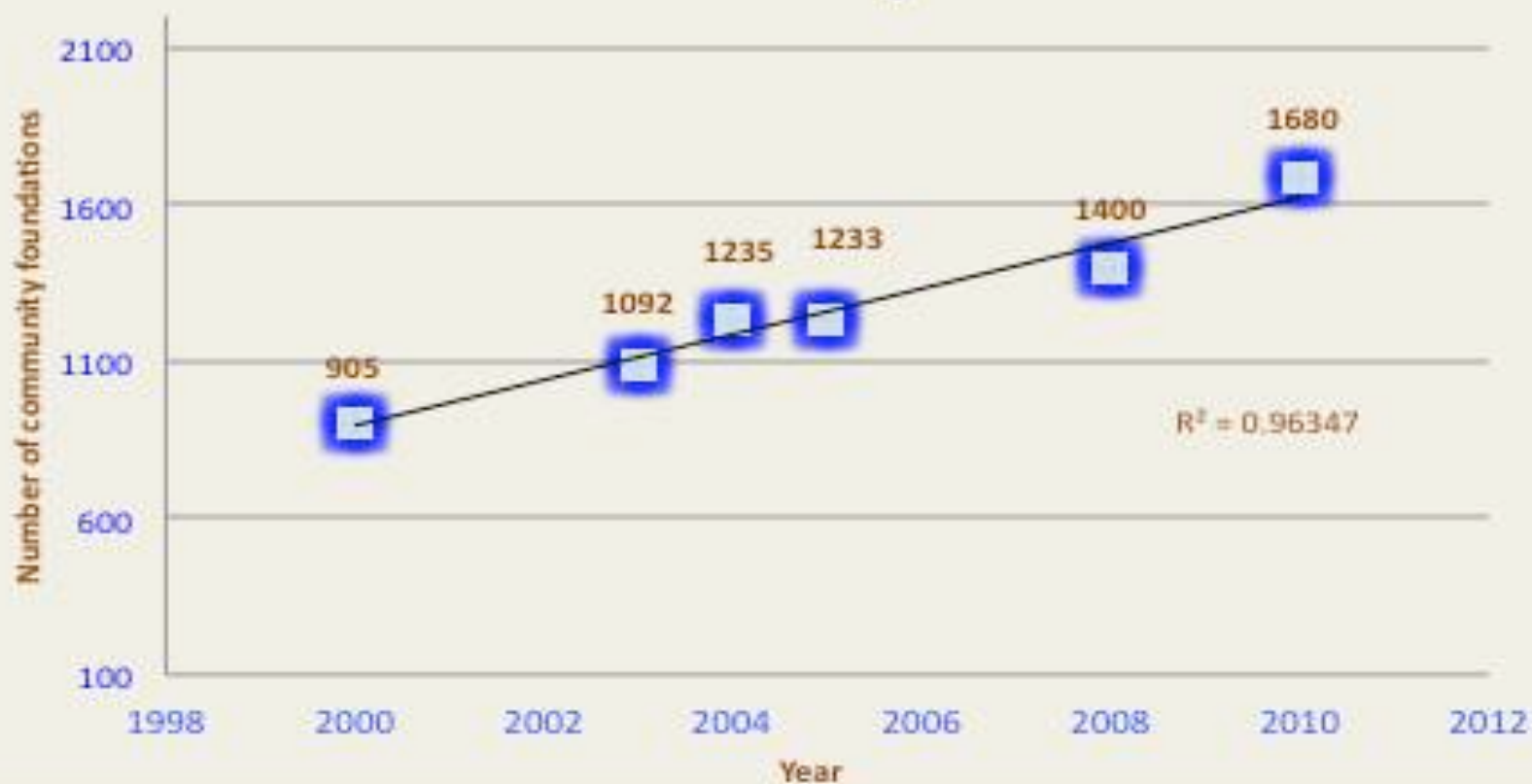
Jenny Hodgson – Global Fund for Community Foundations

LIN Center, 20th March 2015

A good idea... A social innovation..



Number of community foundations 2000-2010



The Global Growth of Community Foundations over past 20 years: global context



- Dramatic changes in political and economic landscapes of many low and middle income countries in recent years. BRICs as new economic force
- New class of wealthy, plus growing middle class – and the emergence of new kinds of philanthropy including private and family foundations
- But growing inequalities and communities under pressure: threats to social cohesion
- Reductions in international development assistance

The Global Growth of Community Foundations over past 20 years: sowing the seeds of a movement



- Internal drivers:
 - Body of research on traditions of giving and solidarity
 - Frustration about structural failures of development aid
 - Growth of home-grown philanthropic sectors: networks, emerging markets philanthropy, maturing of first wave of foundations
- External drivers:
 - Role of handful of US foundations in seeding local foundations—Mott, Ford etc.
 - Learning networks, philanthropic infrastructure
 - Bilaterals / multilateral setting up foundations as intermediary grantmakers

What is a community foundation? The distinguishing features



- Bridging institution, bridging leadership
- Multi-stakeholder governance (not “owned” by anyone person or entity)
- “Grantmakers plus”
- Locally owned & locally led
- Building (on) local assets
- Take a long-term view

A family of institutions.....



- Community foundations
- National public foundations
- Women's funds
- Human rights funds
- Community grantmakers etc.

Haiti Community Foundation Initiative



Kenya Community Development Foundation



Tewa, Nepal



Our Indicators: assets, capacities & trust



Poverty reduction **Strengthening community groups**

Building trust in the community Racial equality

Strengthening marginalized groups **Building community assets**

Gender equality **Capacity building of local institutions**

Participation of local people with authorities

Bridging relations between different communities

Building the field of community philanthropy

Building connections with other CFs

Building community philanthropy regionally

Building philanthropy globally

Building connections with policy makers or funders

Raising visibility of community philanthropy

Changing practices of policy makers or funders

Gaining resources from policy makers / funders

A Path to Good Outcomes



Why the field matters



- Young, dynamic, globally connected
- Emerging practice: grassroots grantmaking, devolved decision-making, youth engagement
- Interested in well-being of their communities (building trust, overcoming apathy, getting people involved)
- Provide “way in” to communities for larger donors – without swamping small groups
- Asset-based, long-term approaches: from intermediary to actor
- Offer a critique of some of the “truths” and conventions of philanthropy and development: new thought leaders

But ...

- Small in numbers, financially small , easily overlooked, individual institutions often weak
- Traffic lights

What we have learnt

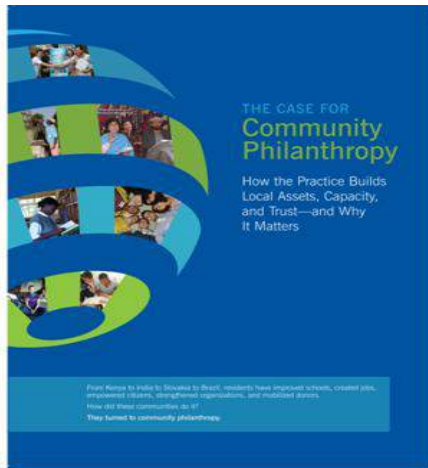


- “Blueprint” approach doesn’t work – context is everything
- Needs local leadership, vision, inspiration, building on what already exists
- External donors must work carefully so as not to destroy – but can play key role in supporting institutional dev’t
- Field still small in numbers – need to overcome isolation, networks matter
- Importance of reflection and self-evaluation among individual organizations – dealing with power, being inclusive, valuing local assets etc.

New opportunities – a field poised for growth



- Global Alliance for Community Philanthropy



New interest from aid and philanthropy fields, new opportunities for connecting learning – Framework of “Assets”, “Capacities”, “Trust”

A shared framework for strengthening the global community philanthropy field as an essential dimension of locally rooted development





Thank you

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