



Survey to Look at the Potential of Creating a Centralized Repository of Information on Non-U.S. Based NGOs

NGO Leader Results October 2006

Survey conducted by:



Funded by:



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Overview

Background. The Council on Foundations, the Foundation Center, GuideStar and Independent Sector have collaborated to explore the usefulness and practicality of creating a centralized repository of information about nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) based outside the United States. A centralized repository of information about foreign NGOs could be used to determine that they are the equivalent of a U.S. public charity or have already been vetted to meet U.S. anti-terrorism requirements.

In this study we wanted to learn if such a repository could make international grantmaking by U.S. foundations more efficient, less costly and less onerous for funders, grant recipients and philanthropic service providers. With generous support from the GE Foundation, the four organizations have engaged Martin Schneiderman with Information Age Associates to design and conduct the study.

This is one of three surveys that was conducted of:

- § International grantmakers
- § NGO Leaders
- § International giving service providers

Duration. The survey was conducted in September and October 2006.

Participants. The international grantmakers that previously responded to their version of the survey were contacted and asked to invite a representative sample of their grantseekers and grantees to participate in a separate survey for NGO leaders.

Some program staff sent invitations directly to their NGO contacts and others provided e-mail addresses to Information Age Associates to invite participation in the survey. All invitations to NGO leaders requested that they provide frank feedback on the questions.

Survey results include only those submissions that were substantially complete.

Result presentation. Typos have been corrected for clarity. The most frequent responses are shown in **bold**. Selected comments and suggestions that were most relevant to the focus of this feasibility study are underlined.

Confidentiality of information. As described to all survey participants, the published survey results include aggregated responses and tabulated results. All text responses have been included verbatim except for survey respondent references to organization names in narrative text which have been replaced with XXXXX.

Project results. This research's project's overall findings and recommendations will be published and disseminated in early 2007.

NGO Profile

Q1. Organization name

56 organizations

Action For Children	Interights
Adoration Ministries Enugu Nigeria(AMEN)	International Spinal Research Trust
Alfabetização Solidária (Solidarity in Literacy)	International Women's Development Agency
Allavida - Alliance Magazine	Isha L'Isha--Haifa Feminist Center
Association des Femmes Gourcy	Jari Aceh
Association for the Prevention of Torture	Kalyanamitra Foundation
Association of War Affected Women	Lupwa Lwabumi Trust
Barnardo's	Medair
CAMMAC	Medical Aid for Palestinians
Cancerbackup	Merlin
Casa de Apoio da Pastoral da Saúde da Granja Viana	Moiwana Humanrights organization Suriname
Centre for Civil Society	NRMA Careflight
Centro Mujeres AC	PAIF ; Promotion and Support of Women's Initiative
Charites In Chichester	Persatuan Perempuan Sama (PPS)
Children in Crisis	PhotoVoice
Child's Dream	Refugee Council
Coalition of Women for Peace	SEED Foundation
Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era	Soi Dog Foundation
Don Bosco Teenage Care	SULH non -governmental organization
Dorset Opera	Sustrans
Ecosistemas	Swaziland Breast Cancer Network
EveryChild	The University of Tokyo
Excellent Development	Uganda Youth development Link
Fahamu	Usindiso Ministries
Farm Orphan Support Trust	Vancouver Friends For Life Society
Friends of Tsinghua SEM, Inc.	Western Canada Wilderness Committee
Fundacion Chasquinet	World Fellowship for Schizophrenia
Hera Women`s Club	

NOTE : Q2. Survey Respondent's Name and Q3. E-mail Address were confidential and therefore not presented.

Q4. What is your primary organizational role?

	#	Percent
Executive management (President, Executive Director, Directors, etc.)	24	43%
Fund raising (Development Officer)	19	34%
Other, please specify	7	13%
Project officer (Project Officer, Associates, Coordinators, etc.)	2	4%
Administrative staff	2	4%
Financial management (Financial Officer, Treasurer, Controller)	1	2%
Legal staff (Counsel, Paralegal, Legal Assistant)	1	2%
Total	54	100%

Other, please specify:

- 1 Editor, Alliance
- 2 Prayer ministry, charity organisation
- 3 Women's Human rights
- 4 Board member
- 5 Data Manager
- 6 Director for Administration (not remunerated)
- 7 Knowledge Management Officer

Q5. Please describe the focus of your nonprofit organization's programs.

	#	Percent
Education	21	37%
Other, please specify	17	30%
Health	16	29%
Human Services	15	26%
International / Foreign Affairs	11	29%
Arts, Culture & Humanities	7	12%
Public Affairs / Society Benefit	7	12%
Environment / Animals	7	12%
Religion	1	1%
Mutual / Membership Benefit	1	1%

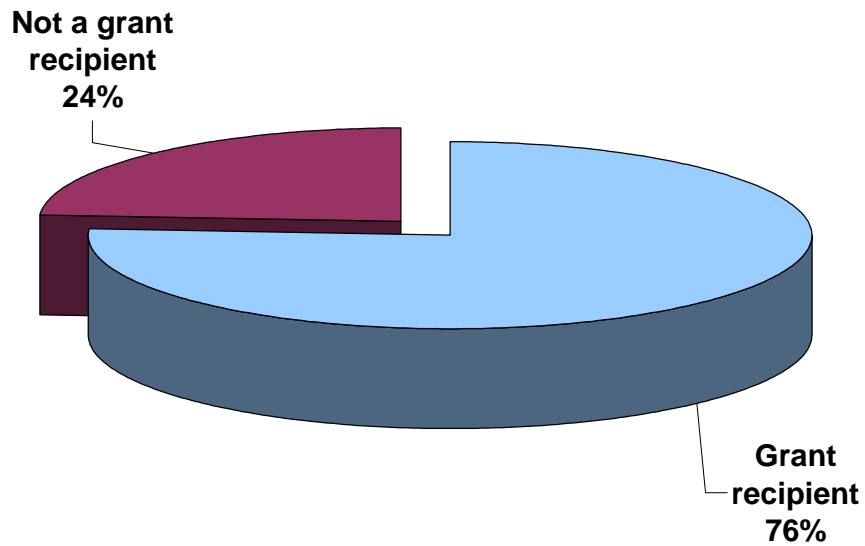
Other, please specify:

- 1 International Development - water and agriculture
- 2 Medical research
- 3 Women
- 4 Human rights
- 5 Women issues and empowerment
- 6 Research; training and advocacy for human rights
- 7 Female Human Rights
- 8 Human rights
- 9 Peace building and women's political participation
- 10 Human Services
- 11 Women and Children
- 12 Fundraising support to local organisations
- 13 Human Rights - Prevention of Torture
- 14 Community development, providing grant to others
- 15 Women's Rights
- 16 Humanitarian Aid
17. Global research / analysis, Advocacy
18. Code des personnels et de la famille, Citoyennete des femmes en milieu rural

Q6. Please describe your organization's grantseeking from U.S. based grantmakers in 2005.

	#
NGOs that submitted proposal to U.S. based grantmakers in 2005	51
NGO organizations that were grant recipients in 2005	39

Proposals submitted	206
Grants received	103
Total grant amount	US\$ 11,052,526



Q7. In which country is your organization's headquarters office?

28 countries

Australia (2)

Azerbaijan

Brazil (2)

Burkina Faso

Canada (4)

Chile

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Ecuador

Hungary

India

Indonesia (3)

Ireland

Israel (2)

Japan

Mexico

Nigeria (2)

P.R. China

Serbia

South Africa

Sri Lanka

Suriname

Swaziland

Switzerland (3)

Thailand (2)

Uganda (2)

UK (16)

Zambia

Zimbabwe

Q8. In which countries do you have operations?

59 countries are listed plus many more in regions cited in the OTHER section below

<p>Afghanistan (4) Albania Australia (2) Azerbaijan Burkina Faso Cambodia (2) Canada (4) China (2) East Timor Democratic Republic of the Congo (4) East Timor Ethiopia (3) Fiji Georgia Guyana Hungary India (2) Indonesia (5) Iran Ireland Israel (2) Italy Ivory Coast Kenya (3) Kyrgyz Republic Lebanon Liberia (2) Lusaka Madagascar Malawi Mexico Moldova Myanmar Nepal Pakistan (3) Palestinian territories (2) Papua New Guinea Peru Republic of Ireland Russia Senegal Serbia</p>	<p>Sierra Leone Solomon Islands Somalia South Africa (4) Kenya Sri Lanka (4) Sudan (2) Tajikistan Tanzania Thai-Burma border Thailand Uganda (3) UK (12) Ukraine (2) USA (2) Vanuatu Vietnam</p> <p>OTHER</p> <p>§ We fund research worldwide</p> <p>§ Africa, Europe, South Asia</p> <p>§ We provide service in all countries, actively in 25 countries</p> <p>§ Commonwealth</p> <p>§ Operating out of Geneva, Switzerland we undertake activities in more than 30 countries worldwide. Programme areas in Europe and Central Asia, the Americas, Africa, Asia Pacific, and the Middle-East and North Africa</p> <p>§ Continental wide in Africa</p> <p>§ DAWN operates in the South Countries in 7 regions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pacific 2. Latin America 3. Southeast Asia 4. South Asia 5. Caribbean 6. Francophone Africa 7. Anglophone Africa
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Q9. From which U.S. based grantmaking organizations did you receive grants in 2005?

68 different grantmakers

AJWS	Micro Enterprise Development Initiative
American Express	Mott Foundation
American Jewish World Service	National Endowment for Democracy
American Jews Worldservices	New Field Foundation (2)
Appui Financier	New Israel Fund (2)
Atlas Foundation	Oak Foundation
B.P. Foundation	OFDA
Boston Jewish Community Women's Fund	Oxfam
Bullitt	Patagonia Inc. (2)
CAF America	Pathfinder
Carnegie Council	Project Concern International
Community Foundation Silicon Valley (2)	RAN
Conanima	Rockefeller Brothers
Deep Ecology	Samuel Rubin Foundation
Dr. Scholl Foundation	Sara Gottesman Fund
Earthways	Save the African Children Foundation
ebay Foundation (3)	Skoll Foundation
EmPower Fund for emerging markers	Symantec Corporation
Firelight Foundation (2)	The Global Fund for Women
Ford Foundation (5)	The Jeniam Foundation
Fund for Global Human Rights	The John D and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation (3)
Global Fund for Women (5)	The Moriah Fund (2)
Giant Steps	Tides Foundation (7)
Goldman Sachs Foundation	UAF
Holt International Children Services	UCLA-CCH
Humane Society International	United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)
International Rescue Committee (IRC),	Urgent Action Fund (3)
Jewish Women's Foundation of Metro Chicago	US/Israel Women to Women
Jocarno Fund	USAID
John Templeton Foundation	Veritas Foundation
Juniper Networks Foundation Fund	Wal-Mart Foundation
L.J. Skaggs & Mary C. Skaggs Foundation.	Weeden Foundation (2)
Liz Claiborne Foundation via Tides	World Vision
Marisla	Xillinx

Becoming Eligible to Receive a Grant from a U.S. Funder

Q10. How do you become eligible to receive grants from U.S. based grantmakers?

	#	Percent
Equivalency Determination (ED)	19	35%
Expenditure Responsibility (ER)	11	20%
Don't know	28	52%

Q11. Which of the following describes your experience becoming a U.S. government recognized nonprofit organization and being eligible to receive grants from U.S. based grantmakers?

<i>Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of total respondents selecting the option.</i>	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't Agree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
U.S. government regulations about nonprofit equivalency are hard for us to understand and comply with.	8 15%	20 38%	14 27%	1 2%	9 17%
U.S. government anti-terrorist and money laundering reporting requirements are hard for us to understand and comply with.	3 6%	17 33%	16 31%	5 10%	11 21%
Many U.S. grantmakers ask us to provide different information about our organization and contacts.	11 22%	21 41%	9 18%	2 4%	8 16%
Providing up-to-date organization and contact information to all of our U.S. funders is time consuming.	12 24%	14 27%	16 31%	5 10%	4 8%
Translating our governance documents into English is difficult for us to do.	6 12%	5 10%	15 30%	20 40%	4 8%

Q12. Please provide additional clarifying comments. (Concerning Q11)

1 I answered 'Don't Know' to the third question because I haven't had experience beyond the two grant applications detailed in Question 6. However, I am aware anecdotally from other British fundraisers of many differing procedures/forms/formats required by different US foundations to demonstrate equivalency.

2 Application is made through the American Fund for Charities to one particular Fund that knows us well. The questions would be harder if we were to approach large numbers of funders in the USA

3 Finding foundations is most difficult for us, and then reporting back after money has been received is more time consuming than in Canada.

4 Some of the questions can not be answered in Australia.

5 Additional expense of having forms signed by Notary Public

6 We use XXXXX who are helpful and efficient. Receiving donations from the US Foundations is as easy as receiving those from the UK Foundations.

7 I don't find US government regulations about equivalency hard to understand, but providing slightly different information to different grantmakers is very time-consuming.

8 Difficulties lie in trying to determine if we can provide tax deductibility for individual US donors & one church group donation (post-tsunami) in 2004, which was auspiced for us.

9 Translation of some documents is difficult because governing documents may refer to fiscal laws governing Mexican not for profits. If you are not a fiscal lawyer in Mexico, the translation would most likely not be helpful in determining equivalence.

10 Main issue appears to be that the nearly all grantmakers restrict their grants to North America.

11 We only use one grantmaker, at present

12 None

13 It is hard to find information on US funding

14 Our organization documents are in English

15 I have had no problem with the requirements as we any way have to meet all those requirements for any grant providers.

16 I would like to know how to go about applying for grants from the US

17 Question 10 not clear

18 To date we have partnered with US organisations to receive funding from the US, with the exception of past funding from regional offices of large US donors who provide funding to international organisations such as Open Society and Ford Foundation.

19 The only funding difficult to access is the USAID funds which has to come through other US based organizations.

20 Although the following comment is really for 2006, it appears as if the Kellogg Foundation will grant us \$400,000. We have had to find a NGO here in Swaziland through whom we have to channel the funds since under the US regulations we are not eligible to receive the funds directly having not handled a budget greater than US\$ 10,000 in the past.

21 We have recently signed an agreement with KBFUS

22 XXXXX do not receive grant from the U.S. So this is not applicable

23 We are not a US government recognized nonprofit organization.

24 We never applied for or received US gov't grant. Had no idea we could. We receive private foundation funding mostly.

25 It is expected and it is normal that each grantmaker has its own requirements. Any NGO interested in receiving a grant should be prepared to meet all such requirements.

26 In respect to our governance documents, it is difficult for us to translate them because their legality and idiosyncrasies are distinct to Chileans.

27 Funders require specific information. However, when an organization has a number of funding partners then it becomes time consuming to be sending out the required information. Possibilities of a uniform reporting and information sharing exercise would be ideal.

Q13. Do U.S. grantmakers provide you with any of the following assistance to help you to become eligible to receive grants?

	#	Percent
None	33	58%
Proposal development assistance	9	16%
Other, please specify	10	16%
Fund raising	6	10%
Document translation services	5	8%
Administrative services	5	8%
Legal assistance	4	7%
Accounting services	2	3%

Other, please specify:

- 1 Could ask for clarification by email
- 2 Unsure
- 3 Consultation with field officers
- 4 Proposal guidelines, financial guidelines
- 5 Guidelines
- 6 Supervise and monitor projects
- 7 Sometimes provides Financial Reporting training
- 8 We do not have a previous experience with them
- 9 Ongoing partnership for development of strategic work
- 10 Guidelines for proposal development

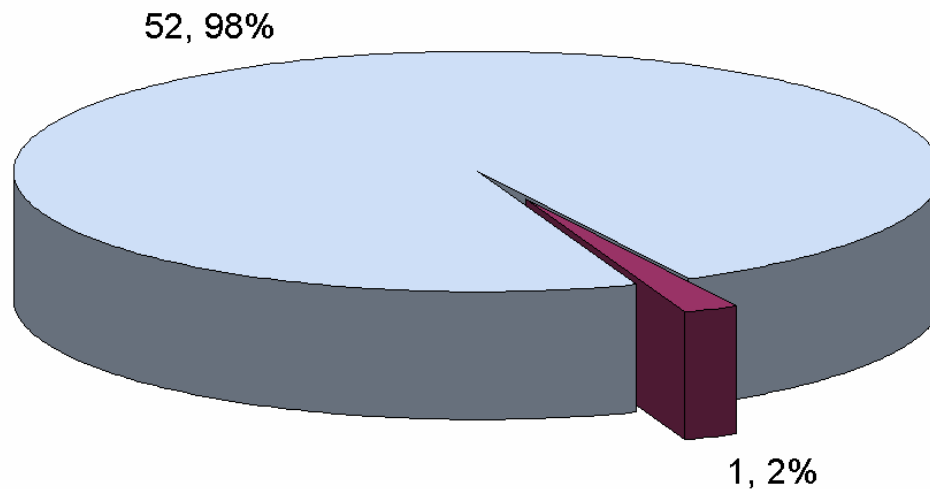
Q14. How long does it typically take you to provide all of the information required to be recognized as a nonprofit organization and be eligible to receive funding from a U.S. based grantmaker?

	#	Percent
1-2 months	24	45%
3-4 months	10	19%
5-6 months	4	8%
Over 6 months	2	4%
Other, please specify	13	24%
Total	53	100%

Other, please specify:

- 1 Unsure
- 2 We have not yet gone through this process
- 3 One and a half years
- 4 Using XXXXX it took very little time
- 5 varies from foundation to foundation 1 - 6 months
- 6 We need less time because of our experiences
- 7 AJWS has been very cooperative
- 8 I don't know, as we have not gone thru this process
- 9 Small grants take short
- 10 It depends from organization, more than 4 month
- 11 We do not have a previous experience with them
- 12 Not applicable
- 13 Process completed several years ago.

Q15. If requested by U.S. based grantmaking organizations would you provide copies of compliance documents and organization information to a centralized repository where this information would be accessible to many potential grantmakers.



Additional response:

1 Provided that registering with such a repository was free of charge to non-profit organisations.

2 Would depend on the credibility and usefulness of the repository and permission from the grant makers

3 What a fantastic idea. Easier for both grantee and funder, surely. Cannot stress enough how useful I think this would be.

4 Probably through the American Fund for Charities

5 Excellent idea

6 Would need to know the added value of this system compared to XXXXX.
The only benefit appears to be the fact that it is free.

7 A great idea! We now receive all our European funding through a single organization, Network of European Foundations, and the time spent applying for grants and reporting is enormously reduced.

8 Depending on further definition of requirements

9 If needed, because most of the funders ask information about other funders.

10 This last question sounds like a good option, as the info would be submitted once and be accessible to whoever needs it.

11 More information would be required on the use of the repository

12 This would be very useful because in our example we have been working as volunteers for 6 years and this type of paperwork combined with writing the funding proposals is very time-consuming

13 Organization will benefit from this very efficiency by decreasing the time consuming for submitting each grant application

14 Some of our funding comes through the New Israel Fund, which is a recognized 501C3.

15 Probably, depending on details of the plan

Submitting Information to a Central Repository

Q16. How would you describe your overall interest and willingness to submit organization information to a centralized repository of non-U.S based NGOs where this information would be accessible to many potential grantmakers.

<i>Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of total respondents selecting the option.</i>	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't Agree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
The availability of a centralized repository containing all of our up-to-date nonprofit status information would be a significant benefit to us.	25 45%	25 45%	2 4%	0 0%	4 7%
We would submit key information about our organization and officers to a central repository and keep it up-to-date.	24 43%	31 55%	1 2%	0 0%	0 0%
The existence of a centralized repository would streamline the process of our becoming eligible to receive grants.	23 42%	25 45%	1 2%	1 2%	5 9%
We would prefer to submit our NGO information to a centralized repository rather than to each grantmaking organization individually.	23 42%	24 44%	5 9%	0 0%	3 5%

Q17. Please provide additional clarifying comments. (Concerning Q16)

1 I would strongly encourage you to look at the high degree of similarity between the US and UK regulatory systems for non-profits/charities. As a UK-registered charity, we are already obliged to file an annual return with the UK Charity Commission (comparable to the IRS return for a 501c3), and to prepare our annual accounts for independent examination/audit by professional qualified auditors. These accounts are published online at the Charity Commission website, and more recently are also accessible via the UK version of GuideStar (www.guidestar.org.uk). Both sites also list the full names of all Board Directors/Trustees. The ideal would be for US foundations to be satisfied that by being subject to a regulatory regime such as that imposed by the Charity Commission and other UK government bodies, that UK organisations are de facto (1) equivalent to a 501c3 and (2) exercising a high degree of financial probity. Perhaps I am being naive? But in this digital age, it is fairly straightforward to check (with government-sponsored or -owned, independent websites) that a non-profit organisation is who it says it is, does what it says it does, and believes what it says it believes!

- 2 It would be beneficial only if it was widely used by foundations.
- 3 Would make us keener to try US foundations
- 4 Would be good to have this linked to a diary (calendar) to application dates/funding opportunities.
- 5 Again, this depends on the level of detail requirements, proposed distribution and uses, privacy issues, etc.
- 6 We could send our NGO information to both. No problem
- 7 Such a repository will be very useful as it will prevent overlapping as well as make the process of grant making smoother and quicker
- 8 This should not limit submission to non government organization.
- 9 Providing information at central place works out better for development organisations though to individual grantmaking that is an added advantage
- 10 If all NGOs who become part of this process could be given a registration number so that potential donors could check out all this information in additional to the actual funding proposal, it should make the time period between submitting the proposal and receiving the funds much shorter if an efficient system is developed.
- 11 If you are a good NGO you have nothing to hide but only time to loose in paperwork.
- 12 To submit XXXXX information to a centralized repository we strongly believe that we can benefit from the organization and maybe it can create opportunity for the organization to receive grant from the U.S.
- 13 Not sure it would give us access to more money. We're very political -- advocate peace policies in Israel.
- 14 We will always be interested and willing to provide all required information to any potential grantmaker, in addition to providing the necessary support to a centralized repository base.
- 15 While a centralized repository would make for a more fluid process; it is also important for us to maintain a direct relationship with the grantmakers.
- 16 This would reduce the time spent on information compilation and spend up time for funding agreements.

Q18. Would any of the following present significant obstacles to your providing information to a central repository of information about your organization?

	#	Percent
None of the above	36	69%
Maintaining our information up-to-date	8	15%
Translating information and documents into English to comply with the U.S. government's regulations	6	11%
Providing information about our organization's officers and board members	4	7%
Using Web-based systems to complete and submit online forms and to upload file attachments	3	5%

Q19. Are there any other challenges or obstacles to your using a centralized repository to publish information about your organization's nonprofit status?

1 Would depend on how frequently updating would be required. Would also be time-consuming, for example, to have to convert large quantities of financial data to US dollars: would the system be flexible enough to include this data in original currency amounts?

2 The Security of the information and data held.

The benefits of such a database.

The buy in from the American Foundations who will use this resource.

3 Our biggest concern would be information mining and use of the information by those that could do harm or target our organization's officers or board members in any way.

4 None

5 The challenge is technical such as internet access and connection in some parts of Africa where we are working.

6 Finding timely information.

7 No, I think that this is a great idea.

8 No

9 In case it limit maximum amount one can get from US.

10 Only possibly if donors who want to be anonymous have to be named.

11 In Swailand, the documents that the Government issues to NGOs about their incorporation and memorandum and articles of association are only given in hard copy and not electronically. How would you deal with this issue as it must be the same case in many other developing countries.

12 N/A

13 To use a centralized repository we see this as an opportunity for us to keep others informed about the organisation. The obstacles we will face are the transforming of all information into another language as we are Dutch speaking. But this we also see as a challenge to changes, ideas and expertise.

14 It is difficult for us to publish our nonprofit status information since there is no administrative staff who is specialized in compliance with U.S. governmental nonprofit equivalency regulations. Moreover, there is no centralized control system of our entire university's international fundraising.

15 I'm not sure we have the incentive to do this. Would it increase our grant pool?

16 No

17 No. We see no major challenges or obstacles.

18 No obstacles or challenges noted

19. Mobilisation conciente des femmes acquit à la cause de l'organisation.