



A Post-2015 Partnership Platform for Philanthropy

*Helping philanthropy better understand the opportunities
for engaging in global development goal processes*

Summary

This document describes a new partnership effort, the Post-2015 Partnership Platform for Philanthropy, designed to both enable philanthropy to understand better the opportunities for engaging in global development goal processes, and help governments and the UN system understand and build on the added value of philanthropy's engagement. The project is implemented jointly by the UN Development Program (UNDP), the Foundation Center, and a Collaboration Committee guided and supported by Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (RPA). Phase 1, covering 2½ years, began in July 2014. Much of the launch investment has already been committed from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, The MasterCard Foundation and Ford Foundation. These foundations and project partners are in discussion with a larger group of funders and partners. The Platform members are eager to engage more philanthropic institutions from around the world in planning and implementing this collaborative effort, and expanding the circle of stakeholders globally and at the country level. The project is summarized below.¹

Background

Over more than a decade, the Millennium Development Goals, or MDGs, have been critical in mobilizing resources and driving real progress on some of the world's most pressing problems. With the MDGs' deadline of 2015 fast approaching, discussion over what should succeed these goals — known as the "Post-2015 Development Agenda" — is an important collective undertaking for those concerned with international cooperation.² As this agenda is being negotiated, there has been a push to use international funding for development more effectively through enabling innovative models of collaboration by a wider group of partners and stakeholders.

This project for the Post-2015 Partnership Platform for Philanthropy (the Platform) focuses on philanthropy's input into this developmental landscape by helping grantmakers to better understand the opportunities for engaging in global development goals processes. It will help to build a means for philanthropy to participate more in the global discussions on the Post-2015 Agenda, something welcomed by many governments and others. The project will, at the same time, assist governments and the UN system in comprehending the added value of philanthropy's direct engagement. It will also,

¹ More detailed descriptions of the project are available and contact information is listed at the end of this document.

² This Platform's scope encompasses a broad view of the Post-2015 Development Agenda including the final push toward the Millennium Development Goals, the Sustainable Development Goals, and other global goals such as the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Program of Action.

crucially, help amplify the voice and action of grantees in determining and achieving international targets and strategies.

Why Now?

Historically, official and private aid has been only partially successful at tackling both the root causes and symptoms of the goals addressed by the MDGs. While there have been wide gains in poverty reduction, many challenges are increasing – not the least growing inequality, the degradation of natural resources, and the predicament of unemployed youth. The international system must work differently to tackle these and other crucial issues. Currently, a global planning process is underway on the Post-2015 Agenda process, including but not limited to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, with a dual focus of finishing the job of the MDGs and addressing other persistent or growing development challenges. Philanthropy can play a greater role in determining these priorities by leveraging its position and contributions to bring other non-governmental stakeholders into the process – a task with which development aid agencies, such as UNDP, have historically struggled.

To catalyze different ways of addressing these challenges, the organizations listed above began to converge their efforts in early 2014 in a participatory and consultative process. A March 2014 convening organized by the Hilton Foundation and UNDP brought together foundations and networks interested in the greater engagement of philanthropy around the SDGs. The forum on “Fostering Commitment and Leadership for Philanthropy’s Engagement in the Post-2015 Agenda” was opened by UNDP Administrator Helen Clark and built upon earlier convenings held by the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations. Participating foundations continued their deliberations at the Worldwide Initiative for Grantmaker Support (WINGS) Forum 2014 in Istanbul, the Salzburg Global Seminar on Philanthropy as a Catalyst for Social and Financial Transformation, the 2014 annual Council on Foundations meeting, the Development Cooperation Forum in Istanbul in June 2014, and other events.

The response has been very encouraging. At the 2014 Global Philanthropy Forum and Council on Foundations annual events, for example, many participants joined sessions on enhancing philanthropy’s role in sustainable development, including those well-versed in international giving and those still considering global grantmaking. There was widespread acknowledgment among the attendees of the timeliness and importance of philanthropy becoming more engaged with the post-2015 goal process. In the closing plenary session of the Global Philanthropy Forum, Gro Brundtland, former Prime Minister of Norway and widely respected world leader and acknowledged author of the “sustainable development” paradigm decades ago, challenged those at the philanthropic gathering to be better collaborators: *“What we need is everyone stepping up to the challenge. Because it’s the sum of what all of us are able to do – from the government, from the local community . . . to the private sector – totally – that’s what will help us, as quickly as possible, get to sustainable development.”*

Responding to this imperative and building on the outcomes of the various meetings are three strong organizations committed to the implementation of the Platform, and incorporating a deeply collaborative approach. UNDP, the Foundation Center and RPA each bring a unique set of assets that are critical to this project’s success. UNDP is responsible for coordinating the UN system’s role in the post-2015 goal identification process. The Foundation Center has the capacity and institutional expertise necessary to deliver on its web product, as seen in its prototype WASHfund.org. RPA has many years of experience in working with philanthropists to achieve thoughtful, effective philanthropy, and enabling funding collaboratives to achieve their members’ shared aims.

Several foundations have been consulted in the planning process, not only the Hilton, Ford and MasterCard Foundations, but also the Oak Foundation, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Humanity United, the Global Fund for Women, and networks such as the African Grantmakers Network, European Foundation Center, Council on Foundations, Global Philanthropy Forum, and WINGS.

Organizational Background - UNDP

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was founded in 1966 with a mandate to enlarge the scope of UN technical assistance to help developing countries. Evolving over time into its current broader role, UNDP partners with organizations at all levels of society to help build nations and communities that can withstand crisis and improve the quality of life for their people. With resident offices in 177 countries, UNDP is unique among UN organizations due to its broad development mandate and role as the coordinator for the UN's development activities, helping to ensure greater interagency coherence and coordination at the country level.

Organizational Background – The Foundation Center

Established in 1956, the Foundation Center is the leading source of information about philanthropy worldwide. Through data, analysis, and training, it connects people who want to change the world to the resources they need to succeed. The Foundation Center maintains the most comprehensive database on U.S. and, increasingly, global grantmakers and their grants – a robust, accessible knowledge bank for the sector. It also operates research, education, and training programs designed to advance knowledge of philanthropy at every level. Thousands of people visit Foundation Center's website each day and are served in its five regional library/learning centers and its network of more than 470 funding information centers located in public libraries, community foundations, and educational institutions nationwide and around the world. The Foundation Center is launching a new website specifically tailored to this platform.

Organizational Background – Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors (RPA) is a nonprofit organization that currently advises on and manages more than \$200 million in annual giving by individuals, families, corporations, and major foundations. Founded in 2002 and continuing the Rockefeller family's legacy of thoughtful, effective philanthropy, RPA remains at the forefront of philanthropic growth and innovation, with a diverse team led by experienced grantmakers with significant depth of knowledge across the spectrum of issue areas. It has facilitated more than \$3 billion in grantmaking to nearly 70 countries.

Project Description

The overarching assumption behind this initiative is that a deeper understanding by foundations around the world of the MDGs and Post-2015 transition process, and how they can engage and contribute their work to the global agenda, will be enormously important to achieving global goals. This, together with a more in-depth understanding by the UN and governments on the role of foundations, will foster more and better partnerships, which will in the long term enhance the impact of each stakeholder's interventions.

The four overarching objectives of this project are to:

1. Create a means for philanthropy to engage better as a partner in the Post-2015 Agenda.
2. Create new methods of outreach and engagement to connect philanthropy to development ecosystems.
3. Develop country-level structures that identify opportunities for philanthropy and partners to collaborate.
4. Make data on philanthropic investments more accessible to track progress, find partners, and tell stories about effective collaborative efforts.

These objectives will be met by the three implementing partners - UNDP, Foundation Center, and RPA through its guidance of a multi-stakeholder Collaboration Committee, with each organization having fiduciary and management responsibilities for the activities within its respective component.

Roles of key partners

Role of UNDP

The role of UNDP is to encourage and enable philanthropy and grantees to participate more effectively in official development processes. At the global level, the UN, governments, and foundations will convene discussions and consultations to ensure the most feasible access points are utilized. At the country level, UNDP, working closely with other UN agencies, is establishing platforms to pro-actively engage foundations locally in development activities and discussions, create linkages between foundations and other development actors, and spot options for joint projects. UNDP is facilitating the exchange of knowledge between country and global level activities and ensuring that lessons learnt are integrated in presentations by partners and disseminated to the broader public. UNDP is leading on in-country outreach workshops with philanthropic and civil society organizations, likely to focus initially on Kenya, Colombia, Indonesia, and likely other countries such as Ghana and Cambodia (depending on evolving circumstances), with the ability to expand as the project is further resourced.

Role of Foundation Center

The aim of the activities managed by the Foundation Center is to provide a high quality database and visualizations for the global development community. As such, the Foundation Center is responsible for establishing a common data-driven knowledge base which will be operationalized in the launching of a web portal using a name such as *SDGfunders.org* or *Post2015funders.org*, along with research dives into the data around key issues.

Role of RPA and the Collaboration Committee

The Collaboration Committee is a way for the experiences and shared aims of the contributing foundations to both inform, and learn from, the practical efforts of UNDP, the Foundation Center and other stakeholders. It consists of representatives from foundations leading this effort and invited experts from philanthropy, with Advisory Committees on key themes like *Data and Knowledge Management* and *Civil Society and Community Engagement*. UNDP and the Foundation Center will participate as observers. The Collaboration Committee reflects the perspectives of those within philanthropy who seek to collaborate more effectively with the Post-2015 goals processes, guided and supported by RPA through a Collaboration Advisor.

The Platform's Strategy

Activities to support the objective to create a means for philanthropy to engage better as a partner in the Post-2015 Agenda include:

- The Collaboration Committee working with UNDP to monitor global and country-level Post-2015 processes to find entry points for philanthropy to engage more deeply.
- Members representing the Platform's efforts to help communicate progress and opportunities to a wider global audience.
- Building partnerships with key foundation networks like the Council on Foundations, European Foundation Center, Global Philanthropy Forum and regional bodies to create linkages between interested foundations and those who will benefit from greater convergence of efforts.
- Strengthening relationships with multilateral organizations and key government leaders to build and enhance philanthropy's profile and contributions to the Post-2015 process.
- Developing policy positions among foundations on relevant issues.

Outcomes: These activities will lead to greater philanthropic participation in various international consultations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and its implementation, and more attention given to issues or importance to philanthropy, not least expanding space for civil society, ensuring that a

robust human rights frame informs the process, and creating a more enabling environment for philanthropy across the world.

Activities to support the objective to *create new methods of outreach and engagement to connect philanthropy to development ecosystems* include:

- UNDP mapping and guiding foundations on intergovernmental processes, global events and stakeholders, and creating presentations, case studies, knowledge products, and flagship reports on the results of collaboration.
- The Foundation Center disseminating data (including data collected in-country) on foundations' funding of MDGs and Post-2015 Goals through SDGfunders.org.
- Organizing events to feature and strengthen a philanthropic voice, advocate for more collaborative work, and raise the visibility of philanthropic interest in collaboration and partnerships globally and at the country level.
- Promoting good practice guidelines such as the Guidelines for Effective Philanthropic Engagement (GEPEs) and the Global Philanthropy Data Charter.

Outcomes: These activities will lead to greater engagement by philanthropy in the Post-2015 discussions and implementation, and more data and evidence available about foundations as actors in international development.

Activities to support the objective to *develop country-level structures that identify opportunities for philanthropy and partners to collaborate* include:

- Planning workshops that result in country-specific work plans and roadmaps for engaging philanthropic institutions and their grantees in the MDG/SDG planning process. Workshops will include participation of foundations, civil society organizations, academia, the UN system and governments.
- Mapping stakeholders and available development knowledge, including the Human Development Index, data related to the MDGs and Post-2015 Goals, and national development plans. UNDP will upload the data on the Foundation Center's website SDGfunders.org.
- For philanthropic actors who are ready and willing to enhance their linkages with a range of development stakeholders, UNDP is facilitating linkages and identifying entry points within country policies and priorities where foundations can fit and leverage their input.
- Involving foundations in relevant policy discussions (on-line, sectoral, annual development summits, etc.).
- Producing country reports that synthesize the results of policy discussions and lessons from the collaboration, and create analytical linkages with human development.

Outcomes: These activities will lead to an increased number of foundations engaging in collaborative activities with multilaterals, bilaterals, national governments, civil society, and the private sector in a way that will contribute to the Post-2015 Development Agenda goals and national development plans. The UN and foundations, initially in the pilot countries but eventually in a growing number of countries, will gain a better understanding of their respective comparative advantages which allow them to identify collaboration options.

Activities to support the objective to *make data on philanthropic investments more accessible to track progress, find partners, and tell stories about effective collaborative efforts* include:

- Creating a dashboard of indicators³ displaying philanthropic activity related to the MDGs (from 2001 to present) and, from 2016 onwards, the SDGs and other issues important in the Post-2015 period. Data will initially be sourced from the grant catalogue that Foundation Center presently maintains. This will be complemented by interactive charts, graphs, and visual maps displaying donor and recipient data. Supplemented with official aid figures, these visualizations will allow grantmakers to easily identify specific areas where funding is robust, and where aid is needed.
- Creating a “community center” where philanthropic organizations and the Platform can share details via multimedia presentations, interviews, and other means about their work, including Platform-influenced partnerships they have developed, that will be factored in the presentation of collective impact data.
- Creating a software module to allow foundations to report MDG/SDG-related activity directly to the portal, helping to ensure that the data presented on the website is the most current available
- For all of these, building on additional resources raised, there will be deeper analysis of data collected by country or by goal area.

Outcomes: Through these activities, philanthropic data will be available in aggregate to the SDG community on a global scale, which will inspire and push organizations toward the standardization of development-related keywords and concepts, ensuring data is accurately interpreted and reported while also facilitating the creation of new partnerships between the Foundation Center, foundations, philanthropic associations, and government-level agencies. This will strengthen philanthropic data collection efforts and data quality measures for the long-term. The portal can facilitate strategic collaboration and cross-sector work, which in turn can potentially reduce redundancy of efforts and reduce misunderstandings in the field about who is funding what, and where, and encourage scaling of successful projects. Philanthropic organizations that are currently not participating in SDG activity because of lack of cohesive data or transparency may use the SDGFunders hub as an opportunity to include their work in the dialogue and possibly even share or point others to new sources of information which can result in and reinforce *pathways* of communication and activity. New tools will ensure greater data transparency and SDG collaboration and the results will be visible as more foundations participate in reporting their information through the Updater tool and contribute to discussions around the issues.

Project Budget

The core budget and planning for this project utilize a modular design, whereby achievement of the foundational goals and activities are supported through core funding from a group of foundations (with matching funds and/or time commitments from the grantees), and additional thematic focus areas (or even geographies) can be included if others are willing to financially support the effort. RPA and the Collaboration Committee will ensure a balance between meeting core commitments and opportunistically taking on new work. Budgets per year and per institution are available separately.

For more information please contact Heather Grady, Senior Fellow, Global Philanthropy, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors at hgrady@rockpa.org or +1 415 343 0838.

³ The dashboard will be co-developed by UNDP and Foundation Center and show the ecosystem of assistance through the consolidation of data from several official sources (including statistics from multilateral and philanthropic sources) and other information and resources relevant to the MDGs and the Post-2015 Agenda.