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ABOUT WINGS

Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support (WINGS) is a network of almost 100 philanthropy associations and support organizations in 39 countries around the world whose purpose is to strengthen, promote and provide leadership on the development of philanthropy and social investment.

www.wingsweb.org
email: info@wingsweb.org
Tel: + 55 11 3078 7299

Address:
Av. 09 de julho, 5143, cj 61
São Paulo - Brasil - 01407-200



The opinions expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of any of these funders

INFRASTRUCTURE IN FOCUS

A NEW GLOBAL PICTURE OF ORGANIZATIONS SERVING PHILANTHROPY

THE FIELD AT A GLANCE



2017



WHAT IS PHILANTHROPY INFRASTRUCTURE?

Worldwide, there are institutions creating the conditions for a favourable environment for philanthropy institutions to accomplish their mission and achieve their potential. Activities and policies that strengthen the sector include a legal framework that empowers them, a tax structure that provides incentives for giving, an accountability system that builds confidence in philanthropy and civil society, sufficient institutional capacity to implement effective activities and sufficient resources to undertake these activities, and a strong culture of giving to grow philanthropy. This positive environment is what we call philanthropy infrastructure.

THE HISTORY OF THE FIELD: PHILANTHROPY INFRASTRUCTURE

1906

Thomas Nunn formed Hampstead Council of Social Welfare in England, bringing all local welfare agencies together under one administrative umbrella.

1924

The National Council for Voluntary Organizations set up what became the Charities Aid Foundation.

1956

The Foundation Center was formed as a 'strategic gathering place for knowledge about foundations' as a defence against congressional inquiries about foundations by giving transparency about activities and funding.

1978

A committee set up to consider the future of voluntary organizations published the Wolfenden Report in the UK, developing a theory of infrastructure to explain why the provision of information, research, training, technical assistance, convening, publication and advocacy was important to develop the field.

1998

The first international meeting of associations of grantmakers (IMAG) was held in Mexico, leading to the formation of WINGS as a platform for support organizations in philanthropy.

1919

The first national infrastructure organization, called at that time the National Council for Social Service, was formed, later renamed the National Council for Voluntary Organizations.

1949

A group of community foundations in the US formed their own umbrella body called the Council on Foundations

1958

The Council on Foundations widened its membership to other types of foundation.

80's and 90's

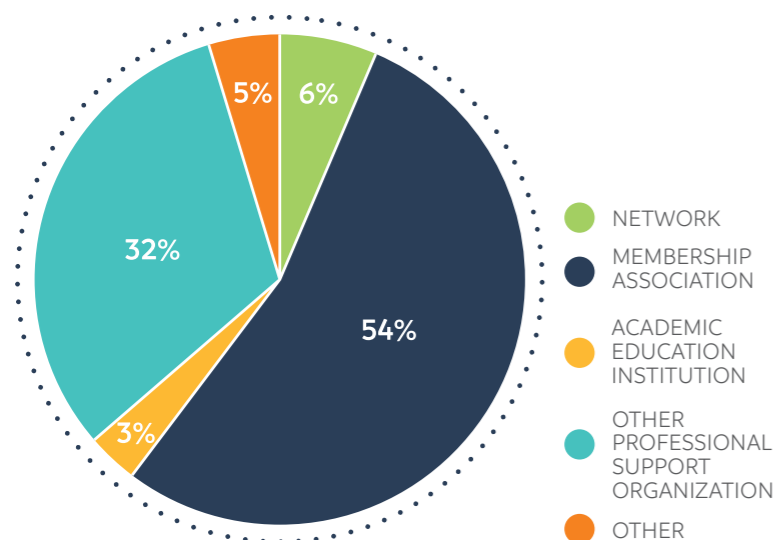
Rise of philanthropy in all regions and its influence beyond national borders. Foundations, including Ford and Mott, began to make serious investments in the development of philanthropy as part of their strategic objectives.

2000

Rise in the number of organizations supporting philanthropy, specially in the Global South.

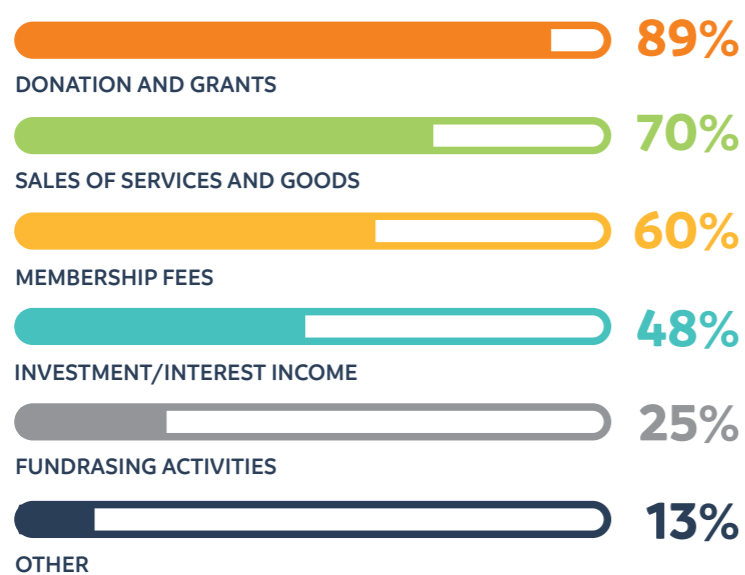
A NEW GLOBAL PICTURE OF ORGANIZATIONS SERVING PHILANTHROPY

54% are membership associations



Question: Please select the type of infrastructure institution that best describes your organization
Number of responses: 63

Overall, philanthropy infrastructure organizations' **main source** of income is from **donations and grants**.



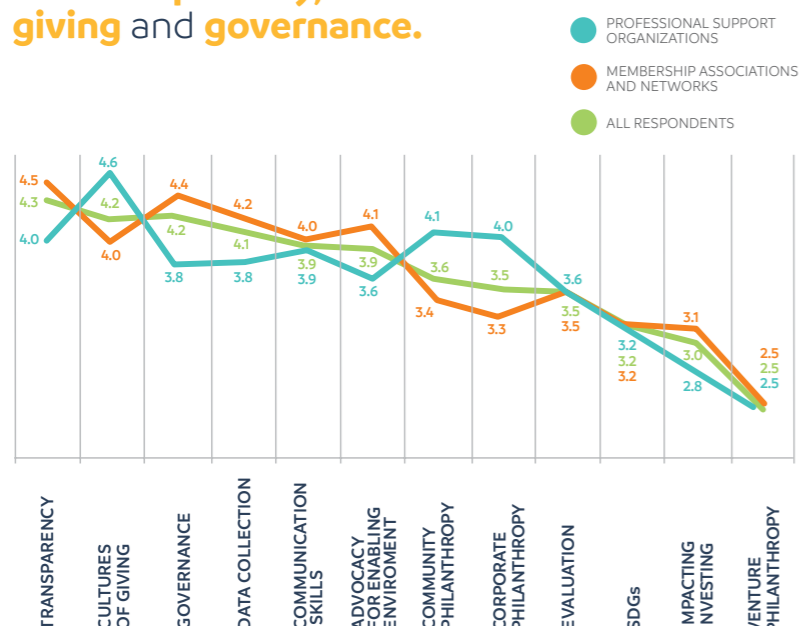
Question: Sources of income (multiple responses allowed)
Number of responses: 63

Overall, the **most prevalent** activities are strongly related to **knowledge**.



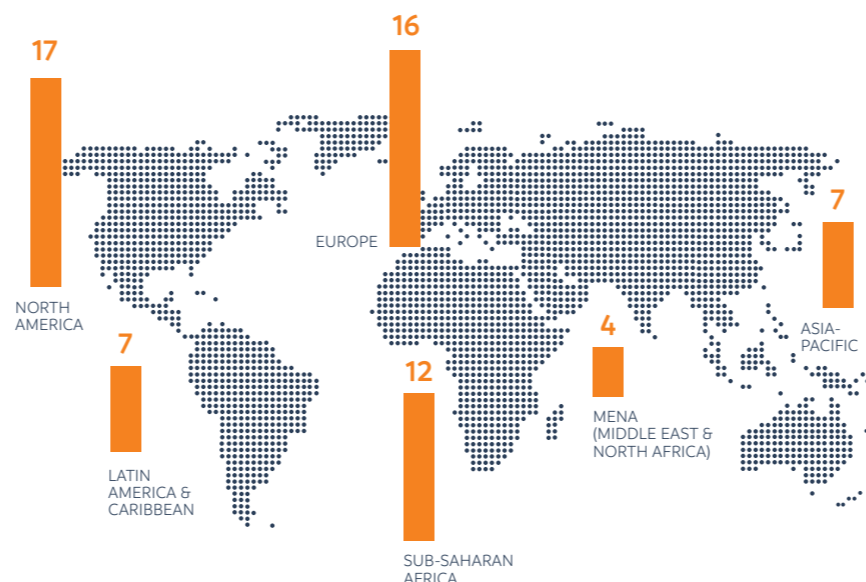
Question: How much work does your organization do with members, clients or organizations served in each of the following areas, 1 being 'None' and 5 being 'A great deal?'
Number of responses: 56

The **most important** issues are **transparency, cultures of giving** and **governance**.



Question: What priority does your organization give to the following issues, 1 being 'No priority' and 5 being 'Essential?'
Number of responses: 56 total, 37 from membership associations and networks and 19 from professional support organizations

There is an **unequal distribution** of organizations supporting philanthropy in the globe.



Question: Organization's information: Region/ Centre or programme information - Region
Number of responses: 63

Survey respondents have an overall total budget of **US\$228.3m** but it varies greatly between institutions.



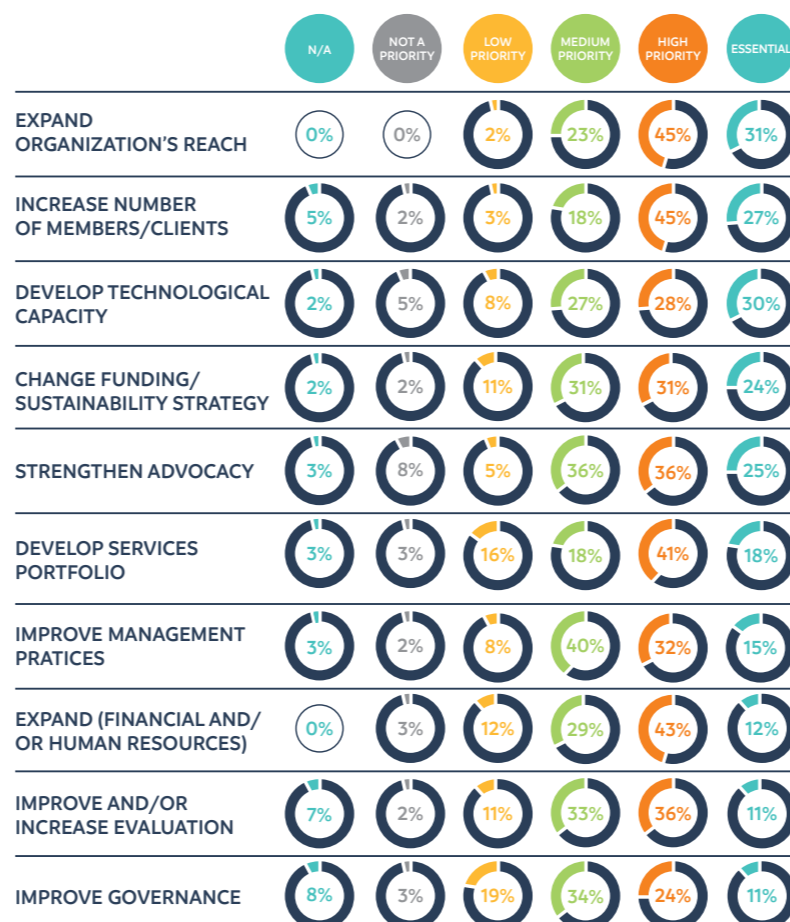
Question: Financial information - Overall budget in 2015 (in US dollars)
Number of responses: 55

The overall median budget is slightly higher than reported in WINGS' 2014 Infrastructure Report.



Question: Financial information - Overall budget in 2015 (in US dollars)
Number of responses: 55 in the 2017 Report / 63 in the 2014 Report

Improving evaluation and **governance** are the **least important** institutional priorities identified.

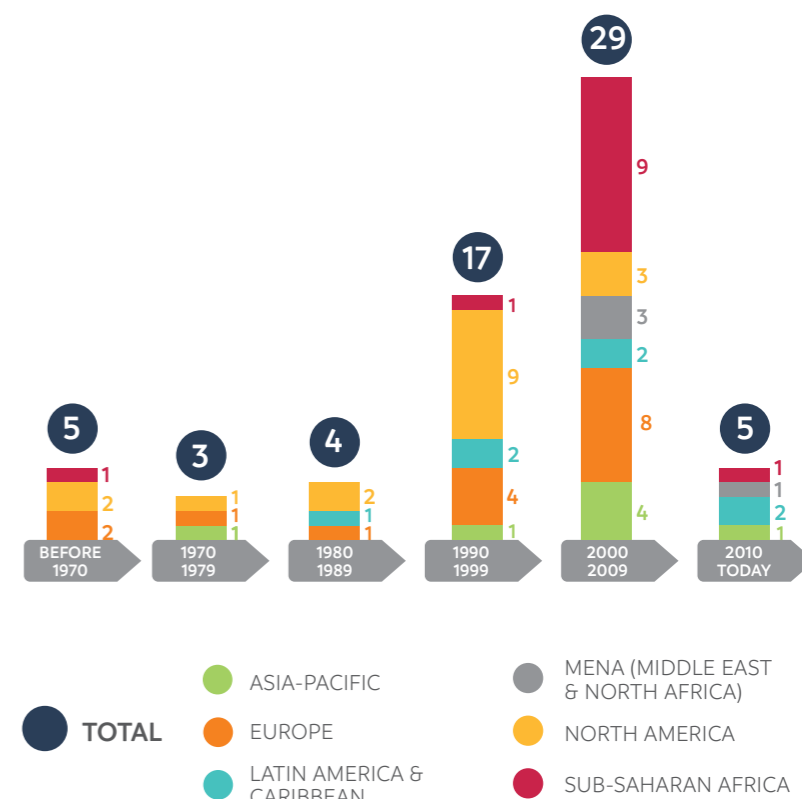


Question: What priority does your organization plan to give to these institutional strategies in the next three years, 1 being 'No priority' and 5 being 'Essential?'
Number of responses: 62

Infrastructure organizations surveyed are supporting a total of **99,042** philanthropy organizations.

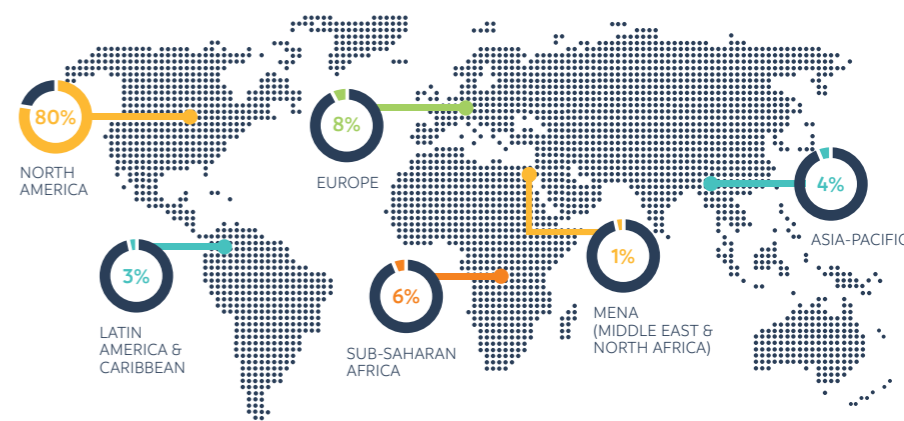
*Some organizations may be represented more than once in this number.

North American organizations are the **oldest**.



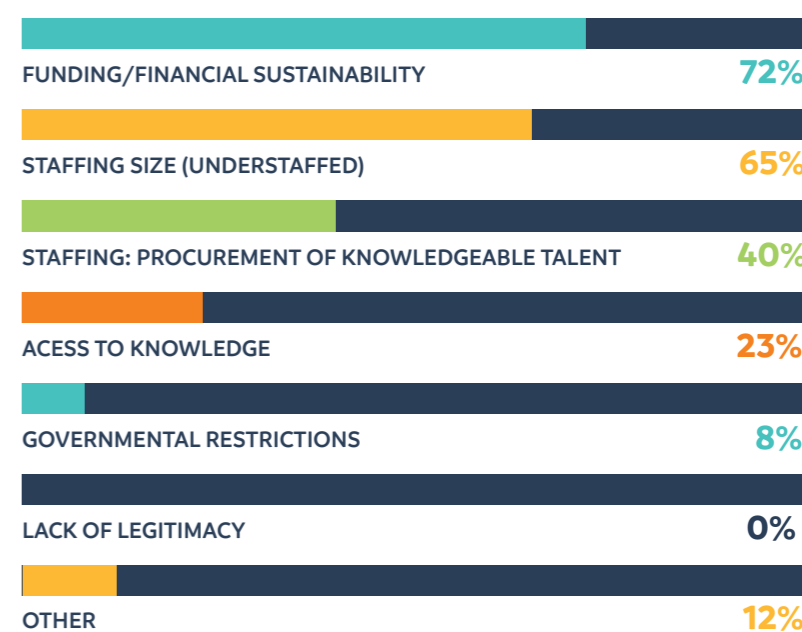
Question: What year was your organization founded?
Number of responses: 63

North America accounts for **80%** of expenditure on philanthropic infrastructure



Question: Financial information: overall budget in 2015 (in US dollars)
Number of responses: 55

Financial sustainability is the **biggest challenge** to achieving short-term goals.



Question: What challenges does your organization face in achieving its short-term goals? (multiple responses allowed)
Number of responses: 60

DATA SOURCE

The data presented here come from an online survey sent in August 2016 to WINGS members (93 at that time), from which we received 63 responses. Although the field extends well beyond WINGS members, their views are a good representation of the field of philanthropy infrastructure.