Category 5: Funding Sources for Peace and Conflict Resolution Activities

Introduction: When it comes to the worldwide availability of funding for collaborative problem-solving activities, we have a proverbial “good news/bad news” situation: On the one hand, the number of organizations that provide such funding has been increasing exponentially since World War II. On the other hand, the total amount of funding available for organizations that are doing the work in the field is singularly scarce. For example, the entire annual budget of U.S. Institute of Peace would buy only one-half of one F-35 fighter airplane.

Following is a more detailed description of this situation, as well as:

- a list of the major foundations that provide funding for peace and conflict resolution projects,
- a chart showing the exponential growth of such organizations since World War Two, and
- sources of additional information on funding for peace and conflict resolution projects.

Private Foundation Funding for Peace-Oriented projects: In the mid-1800s, in the midst of the Irish Potato Famine - the “Great Hunger” - a young English Quaker by the name of Joseph Rowntree traveled to Ireland, where he became deeply affected by the agonies of the starving poor. In time, Joseph went on to become a successful manufacturer of chocolate, and in 1904, inspired by his Quaker heritage, he decided to use half of his wealth to create the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. The purpose of the trust was “to support people who address the root causes of conflict and injustice.” Thus was born the world’s first private foundation aimed at funding peaceful approaches to the resolution of conflicts. Today, over a hundred years later, the Trust funds organizations in Great Britain and around the world that support a transition toward:

- the use of ‘soft’, rather than ‘hard’ power as a first line of response to conflict within our society and around the world;
- the de-legitimization of violence as a tool for responding to conflict, securing interests or projecting power; and
● a culture of human rights and non-violent problem-solving, promoted at all levels of society.

In 1911, seven years after the creation of the Rowntree Trust, the Scottish-American magnate Andrew Carnegie, the wealthiest man in America, founded The Carnegie Corporation of New York to fund efforts towards “creating international peace and advancing education and knowledge.” Seventeen years later, Charles Stewart Mott, an American entrepreneur, created a foundation which bears his name. It is aimed at realizing his vision of “a world in which every person is in partnership with the rest of the human race, and where each individual’s quality of life is connected to the well-being of the community - locally and globally.”

Until the beginning of World War II in 1939, these three were the only private funding organizations in the world dedicated to fostering the peaceful resolution of conflicts. But shortly after the war other such organizations began to appear and multiply. Today the number of major organizations that fund peacemaking activities has grown from three to fifty-eight, and the total number of such organizations runs into the hundreds.

The Peace and Security Funding Index - An Analysis of Global Foundation Grantmaking report analyzes the thousands of grants awarded by hundreds of foundations working on peace and security issues at all levels of society, across the world. In 2015, the latest complete year for which grants data is available, 336 foundations made 2,908 grants, totaling almost $351 million, in support of peace and security work. These grants fell into three categories:

- **Preventing and mitigating conflict**: Conflict and Atrocities Prevention, Countering Violent Extremism and Counter-Terrorism, Cybersecurity, Gender-based Violence, Weapons, Militarism, Nuclear Issues, and General.
- **Resolving conflict and building peace**: Conflict Resolution, Demobilization, Disarmament, and Reintegration; Migration, Peacebuilding, Peace Negotiations, Transitional Justice, and General.

**The Bad News**: While foundation giving of $351 million for peace and security is a very impressive figure, this amount represents less than 1% of the total foundation giving. The median amount awarded for peace and security projects was $100,000. Also, the amount of grants from private foundations has not changed significantly in the last 20 years. [Source: Alliance for Peacebuilding Report, “Innovative Financing for Peace”]

**Government Funding for International Peace - The Good News and the Bad news**: The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development devotes $3.3 billion each year to “conflict prevention and resolution, peace and security.” But as large as this figure is, it represents less than 2% of OECD’s $135 billion budget for total annual assistance. Also, some of this assistance is in the form of loans rather than grants. And finally, this amount has not changed significantly in the last 20 years. [Alliance for Peacebuilding Report, “Innovative Financing for Peace”]
The bottom line: Even though funding for peace activities is in itself large, the total is only a tiny part of overall giving and is far short of the needs of the organizations that could use it to good effect. A survey of 119 peacebuilding organizations indicated that the number one challenge to peacebuilding - by a large margin - is “inadequate financial resources.” [Fall, 2012 report, “Peacebuilding 2.0”, from the Alliance for Peacebuilding]

There are a number of efforts underway to increase funding for peace:

● The Alliance for Peacebuilding’s Innovative Financing for Peace initiative is exploring new methods to secure sustainable funding for peacebuilding. AFP members are examining how peacebuilding organizations can diversify and dramatically increase funding through new financing vehicles and new business models that create pathways for sustainable investment in peace.

● The United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office report, “Leveraging Innovative Financing for Sustaining Peace” indicates that the General Assembly and the Security Council adopted two substantively identical resolutions on sustaining peace in 2016 A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282. These resolutions request a report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its 72nd session [September, 2017 - September, 2018] on a range of thematic issues, including options pertaining to the financing of UN peacebuilding activities. The report will provide a unique opportunity to chart an ambitious course for genuinely rethinking the way the UN System finances its efforts to sustain peace.

● Donata Garrasi’s article, “Innovative Finance, Conflict, and Peace” (LinkedIn, December 19, 2016), discusses Georgia Levinson Keohane’s book, Capital and the Common Good - How Innovative Finance is Tackling the World’s Most Urgent Problems (Columbia University Press). Ms. Garrasi’s article also describes several mechanisms to “attract and retain investment in conflict affected and fragile countries.” She concludes: “Ultimately any progress in this area will require a few visionary leaders from the public and the private sector who can see the opportunities presented by investing these [developing] countries and in building peace, and who will deliver the innovations required, just as it happened with the environmental movement.” Her article is followed by several informative comments by readers.

Major foundations that provide funding for peace and conflict resolution projects:

1. American Jewish World Service (1985)
2. The Berghof Foundation (1971)
6. Carnegie Corporation of New York (1911)
7. The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation (1928)
8. The Compton Foundation (1946)
14. Filia die Frauensiftung (2001)
15. The Ford Foundation (1949)
16. The Foundation for Middle East Peace (1979)
17. Foundation to Promote Open Society (1979)
19. The GE Foundation (1985)
20. GHR (1968)
22. Harry and Frank Guggenheim Foundation - War and Peace (1996)
23. Henry Luce Foundation Initiative on Religion in International Affairs (2005)
30. The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (1904)
33. The National Endowment for Democracy (1983)
34. The National Lottery Community Fund 1994)
36. Network for Good (2001)
37. The Nexus Fund (2012)
38. The Oak Foundation (2005)
43. Philanthropy New York (1979)
44. Philanthropy for Active Civic Engagement (2007)
46. Robert Bosch Stiftung, GmbH (1964)
47. Rockefeller Brothers Fund (1940)
48. The Samuel Rubin Foundation (1949)
49. Skoll Foundation (1999)
50. The Schwelle Foundation (1979)
51. Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation (1964)
53. The United States Institute of Peace (1984)
55. The Whitman Institute (1985)
56. The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation (1966)
58. Women’s Funding Network (1985)
The Growth of Major Foundations
That Fund Peace and Conflict Resolution Projects,
from 1900 to the Present Day

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Sources of information on funding for peace and conflict resolution projects:

- Beyond Intractability.org ("Careers and Funding Opportunities in the Peace and Conflict Field"),
- The Chronicle of Philanthropy,
- The Foundation Center,
- Funds for NGOs lists 20 grantmaking foundations that provide funding for NGOs to promote peace and democracy.
- Global Giving,
- Google Ad Grants,
- Grantwatch.com lists grants that “support conflict resolution; stop bullying in schools and educate and strengthen to eliminate racism and bias in local [U.S.] communities.”
- Group Buying,
- GuideStar, the world’s largest source of information on nonprofit organizations, in its “Nonprofit Profiles” section, provides searchable information on thousands of nonprofit organizations that are “tackling the great challenges of our time”. Under the heading “Conflict Resolution Funding”, GuideStar lists 140 nonprofits, and under the heading “Peace Funding” it lists 791 entries. InsidePhilanthropy.com,
- Interaction - “Innovative Financing for Development”
- The International Peace Research Foundation,
- MWBEzone.com,
- The Peace and Collaborative Development Network,
- The Peace and Security Funding Index - an Analysis of Global Foundation Grantmaking
- The Society for Nonprofits