

**FOUNDATIONS PARTNER TO PROMOTE REPORT
ON COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPY AT DC EVENT**

WASHINGTON, DC, MARCH 1, 2012 – Today, the [Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A.](#) (AKF USA) and the [Charles Stewart Mott Foundation](#) (Mott Foundation) hosted an event with 45 philanthropy experts and global civil society representatives at the Aspen Institute in Washington, DC to officially release a new report, entitled [The Value of Community Philanthropy: Results of a Consultation](#). Participants engaged in a lively discussion at the Aspen Institute about how community philanthropy can be a powerful vehicle for strengthening civil society and enhancing aid effectiveness.

The jointly released report makes the case that increasing local ownership and accountability leads to stronger communities and should be a main focus of development aid practitioners. Barry Knight, CENTRIS Consultant and Facilitator and the report's author, noted that it is very timely as civil society groups awaken around the world. "I think we are now in the midst of a philanthropic revolution. People on modest incomes, and in fact, typically classified as poor, are stepping forward because they want to take a stake in their societies. The report is an opportunity for development practitioners to focus on strengthening civil society to improve development aid."

"I think this is an excellent report. They made a wise choice in taking their time and spending a year talking to different communities. And I think Barry Knight's summation of their findings and discussions is right on. I hope going forward these dialogues will continue" stated Eleanor Fink, Senior Philanthropy Advisor at the World Bank and one of the event's panelists.

AKF USA and the Mott Foundation used the event to bring together diverse views, giving voice to people from community foundations, multilateral development agencies, and field researchers and practitioners, all in support of this promising field. Panelists included:

- Eleanor Fink, Senior Philanthropy Advisor, World Bank Group
- Joyce Malombe, Program Officer, Wellspring Advisors LLC
- Apoorva Oza, CEO, Aga Khan Rural Support Programme, India
- Barry Knight, author of "The Value of Community Philanthropy"
- Jane Wales, Vice President of Philanthropy & Society, Aspen Institute, *moderator*

Discussions centered on building a set of metrics that includes both quantitative and qualitative data, showing the success of the field in terms donors and foundations can understand, and supporting institutions that help local assets grow.

As Jane Wales, Vice President of Philanthropy & Society at the Aspen Institute and discussion moderator noted, "This is a marvelous opportunity to draw together strategic philanthropy and

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community giving. Among the most important things has been the consultative process that has brought together community voices, the ideas and insights of scholars, the views of practitioners and of intergovernmental and donor agencies. It's about capturing lessons learned in an on-going basis and sharing that knowledge, and that will make all of us more effective."

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Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A.

An agency of the Aga Khan Development Network

AKF USA, established in 1981, is a private, non-denominational, not-for-profit international development organization committed to alleviating poverty, hunger, illiteracy and poor health. AKF USA works to address the root causes of poverty by supporting and sharing innovative solutions in the areas of health, education, rural development, civil society, and the environment. AKF USA is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code. AKF USA is part of the Aga Khan Development Network (www.akdn.org), a network of private, nondenominational, development agencies around the world, established by His Highness the Aga Khan to empower communities and individuals, often in disadvantaged circumstances, improve living conditions and opportunities. The Network's agencies work for the common good of all citizens, regardless of their gender, origin or religion and its underlying impulse is the ethic of compassion for the vulnerable in society.



Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

The Mott Foundation, established in 1926 by an automotive pioneer, is a private philanthropy committed to supporting projects that promote a just, equitable and sustainable society. It supports nonprofit programs throughout the U.S. and, on a limited geographic basis, internationally. Grantmaking is focused in four programs: Civil Society, Environment, Flint Area and Pathways Out of Poverty. Besides Flint, offices are located in metropolitan Detroit, Johannesburg (South Africa) and London. The Foundation, with 2010 year-end assets of approximately \$2.2 billion, made 456 grants totaling \$87.4 million.

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