



THE ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH



What Have We Learned?

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The Advancing Human Rights Research: What have we learned?

The *Advancing Human Rights* (AHR) initiative tracks the evolving state of global human rights funding. It is a collaboration between [Human Rights Funders Network](#) and [Foundation Center](#), in partnership with [Ariadne](#) and [Prospera](#), and uses grants data to map the issues addressed, funding strategies used, and populations and regions served. Our aim is to strengthen funders' decision-making, promote collaborations, and improve the effectiveness of human rights philanthropy. We have produced a number of resources to make the research findings accessible, including a [public website](#), a series of [annual analyses](#), and a [funders-only map](#) with a grants database. This report marks our first in-depth evaluation of the research and related tools.

Eight years into the initiative, we have tracked more than 111,000 human rights grants totaling over \$12.1 billion. This is a pivotal moment to take stock of our data sharing efforts and identify areas where the initiative should adapt and improve. Significant changes have taken place in the field since we launched this work. In recent years, human rights funders have been particularly challenged to respond to global trends of authoritarian governments and closing civic space which has added to data security concerns. At the same time, the rise of the information era means people are consuming information differently than they did when we began which has implications for how we communicate about this work. In conducting this evaluation, we seek to ensure the AHR initiative is responsive to the human rights community's need for information about the funding landscape. Our findings will serve as a critical foundation as we work with partners to develop the next phase of this work.

What was our methodology?

We used a multi-pronged approach to gather feedback about the accessibility and usefulness of the AHR research and tools. We conducted an audit of the AHR websites, a survey of 98 network members, interviews with 20 grantmakers and other stakeholders, and a series of additional conversations that elicited relevant feedback. We also reviewed input provided by our members since 2010.

Our first step was to conduct an analysis of the public website and funders-only website. We reviewed their overall conceptual and visual designs and the degree to which they align with our purpose. We considered whether users are using the sites in the ways we envisioned. We also tested usability of the sites to determine if they are clearly organized with user-friendly categories, menus, and links and whether people can find the information they are seeking. Finally, we used traffic analytics to identify referring sites and the pages our users are accessing.

Informed by the website analysis and earlier user input, we crafted a survey to capture the experiences of a diverse set of stakeholders involved in human rights philanthropy, including grantmakers, data submitters, and those in management, governance, and advisory roles. The survey consisted of 35 multiple choice, open answer, and closed-form questions, including questions that called on respondents to rank or rate certain elements of the AHR tools. We designed the survey to solicit feedback from people who use the tools often, people who had not previously heard of them, and people who had chosen not to use them, taking respondents down different question paths depending on their answers.

We launched the survey in May 2018 and promoted it over a four-week period to HRFN, Ariadne, and Prospera members. We received 98 survey responses from people working with 76 organizations, who held a variety of positions and had varying levels of experience. All of the respondents indicated that they work in philanthropy, though 13 were not affiliated with any of the three networks. Almost half of respondents (45/98) were from foundations with less than 10 staff members, and almost a third (30/98) were from the Global South or East. Approximately three-quarters of respondents completed the survey (71/98).

We conducted follow-up interviews with survey respondents who indicated an interest. We spoke with funders who have used the research and could reflect on ways the data has or has not enhanced their work, and with grants managers responsible for submitting data to gather feedback on the process. We also spoke with funders who were unaware of or haven't used the research to help us understand the barriers, and with academics, journalists, and others outside our networks who use human rights research in ways that may differ from the people reached by our survey. In addition, we solicited the perspectives of colleagues who have created data mappings similar to ours on the usefulness of our tools and recommendations for improvement. We conducted all interviews as semi-structured discussions using an interview guide tailored to each category of respondent.

How important is quantitative data about the funding landscape?

The impetus for launching the AHR initiative was to meet the grantmaking community's need for quantitative data about human rights funding flows, gaps, and trends. One interviewee involved in the project's inception noted that she had looked for this type of information when working as a funder and hadn't been able to find it. A person close to the project said, "Before this data existed there was nothing. There was no other data out there on the broad spectrum of human rights funding."

When asked how important it is to have quantitative data about the funding landscape, all of the survey respondents indicated it had some importance, with 89% (86/97) citing it as "very important" or "important." When asked the extent to which they rely on quantitative data to inform their grantmaking, 27% of respondents (26/97) said "very much" and another 51% (49/97) said "somewhat." People pointed to the important role quantitative data plays in concretizing people's thinking about the field, enabling discussions to move beyond the exchange of anecdotes, and providing a resource for measuring impact:

"In the human rights movement we've historically relied heavily on peoples' stories and anecdotal evidence, so having quantitative analysis that can corroborate that data and further enhance our decision-making would be especially useful for funders." — *Sue Gunawardena-Vaughn, Open Society Foundations*

"Quantitative data is critical to philanthropy.... [it] begins to ground conversations in the reality of what's really happening, and provide a benchmark to measure change over time to see how the field is evolving." — *Steven Lawrence, TCC Group*

For rights groups seeking funding, quantitative data about the funding landscape can help jumpstart conversations with grantmakers:

"Understanding the priorities of funders helps us as fund seekers to see if there is a fit between our ideas about what might be an impactful intervention and the funding available and see if there is a mismatch. The data offers ways to communicate about this mismatch with funders. It allows conversation in a more open and direct way—not just about a single funder's practices but about the pattern of funder practices. These are not things that are always easy for grant seekers to raise so this helps." — *Claret Vargas, MSI Integrity*

More than one person cautioned against over-reliance on quantitative data alone, pointing to the need for accompanying strong analysis in order to tell the full story.

How do the AHR tools compare to other resources?

Many people indicated that the AHR research occupies a specific niche and meets a need that other resources do not. 59% of survey respondents (42/71) said they are not using resources other than the AHR tools to get quantitative data about grantmaking on human rights or their focus areas. Those who do, turn to a wide range of sources, including their own grantees and research, the reports and websites of peer donors or multilateral institutions, funder networks, and groups like Foundation Center and 360Giving.

In comparing the AHR tools to other resources, several people said the AHR tools have a broader focus:

"AHR findings are top level, and less specific than those I use more often, targeted at my particular area of interest/expertise." — *survey respondent*

"[The AHR tools] provide a large-scale landscape of where funding is going, which complements the information on where funding is most needed." — *survey respondent*

Some stakeholders raised concerns about the AHR tools in comparison to other resources. Several people expressed uncertainty about the accuracy of broad mapping projects like the AHR research. One observed that the classifications are different than those used in other tools which can make it difficult to reconcile the findings against other datasets. Another person noted that data from

other sources are often more current. A final respondent stressed the importance of having tools that provide insights into the “opaque” field of philanthropy, but warned that they are limited by which foundations provide their data directly, how they choose to describe it, and how it is coded and analyzed.

Who is using the AHR tools and how did they learn about them?

The majority of survey respondents were aware of the AHR tools prior to taking our survey. The public website was best known (79% or 73/92), followed by the annual analyses (65% or 60/92), and funders-only map (62% or 62/92). 82% of survey respondents (75/92) said they had used the AHR tools in their work, with 11% using them once per month, 38% once per quarter, and 33% once per year. No respondents indicated that they used the tools on a weekly basis. Respondents from medium and large foundations were more likely than respondents from small foundations to be aware of and using the AHR tools, as illustrated in Figure 1.

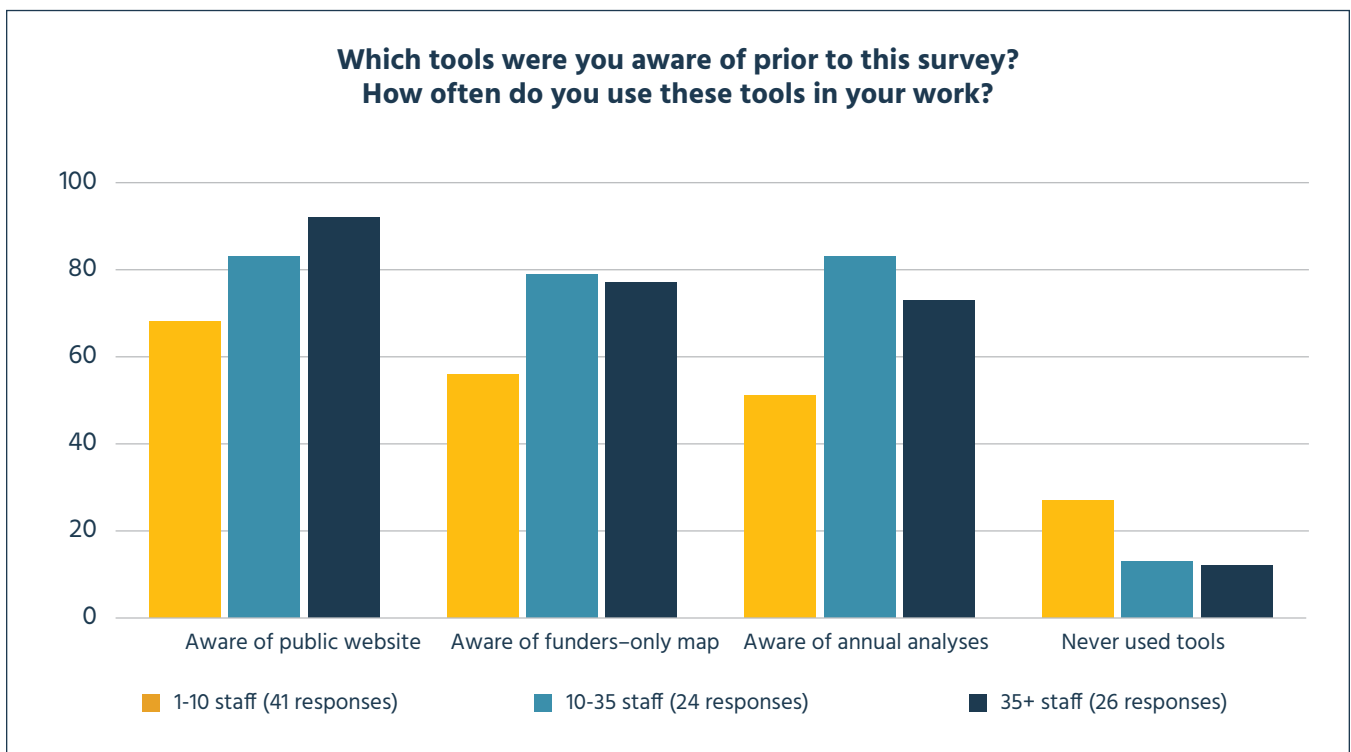


Figure 1: reported awareness about and use of the AHR tools by foundation size

When asked how they first learned of the tools, 46% of survey respondents (42/92) cited meetings and conferences, 33% (30/92) said from a newsletter, listserv or blog, and 25% (23/92) said from a friend or colleague. Word of mouth emerged as an important form of outreach and advocacy for the tools with 61% of respondents (56/92) reporting that they encourage colleagues to access and use them.

We also asked respondents who said that they do not use the tools to tell us why. The majority (67% or 12/18) said it was because they were not aware of them, while two respondents indicated they did not have time, two said they use data from other sources, and one said the data was too general. None indicated the data is confusing, which was another option we provided. When we asked this group how likely they are to use the tools in the future, 78% (14/18) said they were likely to use the public website and funders-only map, and 83% planned to use the annual analyses (15/18).

What do people think about the AHR tools?

We gathered feedback from people with experience using the tools and others who might find them helpful but were seeing them for the first time. We asked survey respondents who had used the tools to assess their usefulness. Their responses are reflected in Figure 2.

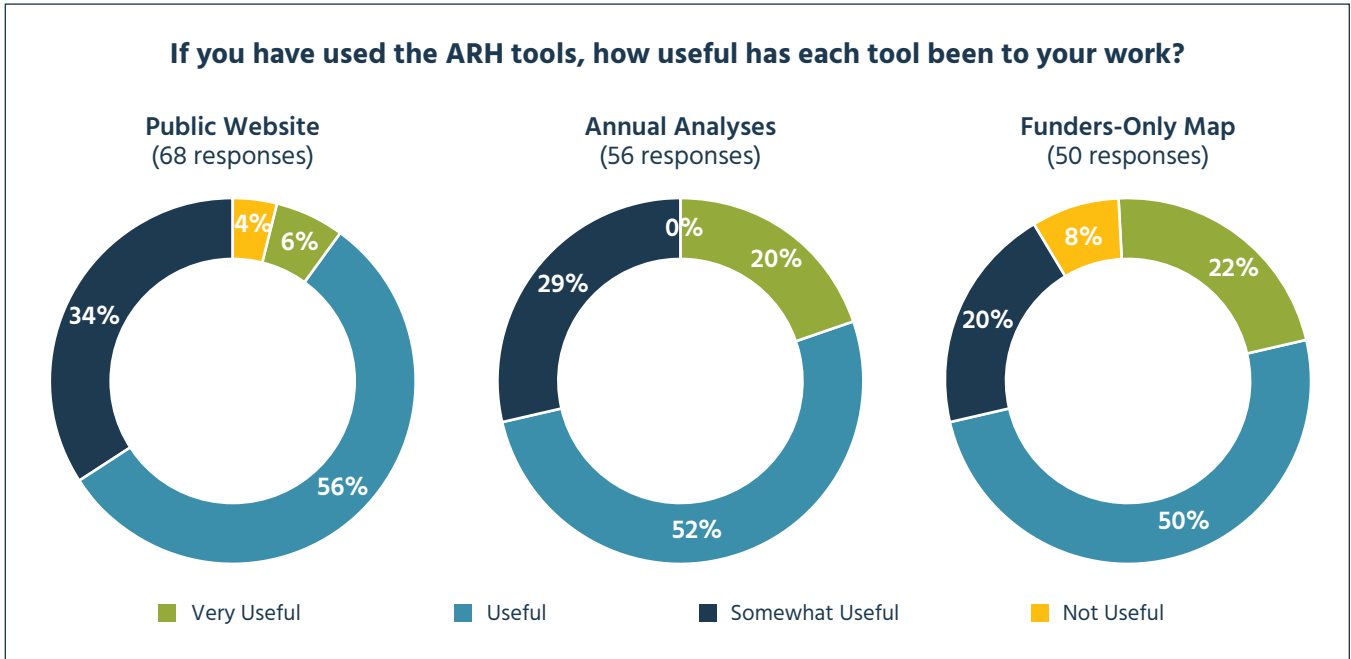


Figure 2: reported usefulness of the AHR tools

Public Website

The public website, known as the research hub, provides totals for human rights funding by region, issue, population, and strategy, and highlights funding intersections and trends. Of the 68 survey respondents who had used the site, 96% (65/68) said it had been of some benefit to their work. When asked how likely they are to use the site in the future, 96% of respondents (65/75) who had used one or more of the tools said “likely.”



Figure 3: the Advancing Human Rights Research Hub

People praised the site's easy-to-use design, and indicated it was most helpful for comparing funding across categories, highlighting gaps, and identifying top funders. One interviewee pointed to the site as the project's "biggest contribution to the field," noting, "Before it was launched, it was so hard to get information about who was funding human rights." Another interviewee applauded the site as easy to navigate: "A single look at the tool gives a sense of what it provides. It gives me a clear sense of what I'm going to find." One interviewee remarked that the trends information was a good addition to the site and has made it more useful.

We also heard constructive criticism about the site. Several people said the information it contains is so broad it is difficult to use: "There is so much there that it can be challenging to wade through." Quite a few people said it can be hard to navigate the site and fully understand what's there, especially for people less familiar with human rights philanthropy. One grantmaker suggested we provide more guidance up front, saying the site "needs some cushioning to explain how to use it, why you are juxtaposing these things, contextual explanation of what these lines mean." Several people said the blogs, key findings, and about sections were hard to spot, while a journalist from outside the grantmaking community found the site corporate and dense, and said the design could be cleaner.

Finally, several representatives of smaller foundations felt the site overemphasized the role of large foundations and lacked diversity. Shubha Chacko of Solidary Foundation explained, "I feel that the network is working for the bigger funders to learn from each other and share information with each other." She questioned whether the website had many resources relevant to smaller funders and recommended we add a list of small foundations that use a human rights approach so others will know about them and what they are doing. Many people embraced the idea of featuring case studies and testimonials on the site, including as a way to highlight the work of smaller foundations, elevate more diverse voices, and inspire funders that their work is making a difference. One funder stressed that the site should remind users that human rights grants are meant for and have an effect on real people.

Funders-Only Map

We also collected feedback on the funders-only map, which is updated weekly and lets donors view grants-level data, search at the intersection of multiple issues, map their work, and identify potential partners. Of the 50 respondents who had used the map, 92% (46/50) said it had been of some use to their work. When asked if they were likely to use it in the future, 93% of respondents (70/75) who had used one or more of the tools said "likely."



Figure 3: the Advancing Human Rights Research Hub

Several people described the map as a valuable resource. One interviewee said it is helpful because it can reveal who the other funders are out there. He explained, “You get the big funders in a room and they say they already know the big players in this space. And then you run the data and foundations pop up that no one has heard of.” Another interviewee commented that she appreciates having access to a searchable database of grants, saying, “I like to know what’s under the stats.”

A number of foundations who were familiar with the public facing website were unaware of the map. Those funders, and others unfamiliar with the project, expressed keen interest when it was described to them. Steve Khan of Ontario Trillium Foundation said he thought the map would be useful as his foundation refreshes its investment strategy. He speculated that the data could help OTF confirm its niche, avoid overlapping with other initiatives, and think through how to fund more in remote communities. Another grantmaker said the map will help her learn more about potential grantees to see who else has funded them and for what: “For a group that is new to me, it would be helpful to check that as part of my due diligence.”

Several people spoke of the challenges and limitations of using the map. One interviewee observed, “It’s valuable to get a sense of the field, but hard for people to use who haven’t been trained in how to use it.” Another asked why the strategies we track are not included in the search options. Several people questioned whether it is necessary or useful to limit map access to funders only. One asserted, “Data should be freely available to all; sensitive information can be redacted to ensure the safety of beneficiaries.” People close to the project debated the pros and cons of opening up the site, including concerns about security and whether funders would still share their data.

Annual Analyses

Finally, we evaluated our key findings reports where we provide annual analyses of global human rights funding. All of the 56 respondents who had used the key findings reports said they had been of some use to their work. When asked how likely they are to use the reports in the future, 92% of respondents (69/75) who had used one or more of the tools said “likely.”



Figure 5: the Advancing Human Rights Key Findings Reports

One interviewee referred to the key findings reports as “critical,” adding, “I think there will always be a place for a good, brief narrative report that tells a story about the data—the big picture—in easily digestible form.” Another interviewee pointed to the importance of providing context for the data, saying, “If you throw data at people without any analysis it’s hard to digest. People aren’t just looking to HRFN to spit out data, they’re looking for HRFN to contextualize it in terms of looking at trends and the broader field.” One funder reported that she finds the analyses in the key findings reports “incredibly helpful,” and praised the way HRFN is able to explain the funding context, including the reasons behind funding shifts. Several people found the naming of the reports confusing: “The ‘2017 Edition’ doesn’t have 2017 data.”

Many people said they would like HRFN to provide more commentary, analysis, and conclusions to accompany the data. As one interviewee explained, “there’s something appealing about a simple statement like ‘there’s a gap in funding for X’ or ‘more funding went to Y.’” She said HRFN should do more to move beyond just presenting the numbers to making compelling arguments paired with data to help people make sense of the research and use it as an advocacy tool: “You want to make some big picture conclusions for folks, and give them the tools so they can dig deeper into things they’re interested in.”

What can we learn from website analytics?

To better understand the extent to which people are using the public website and funders-only map we reviewed the website analytics. We found, unsurprisingly, that use of the public website is largely driven by key moments in the project that draw people to it. When the site was launched in July 2014, over 7,000 users visited in the first month and more than 3,000 visited in the second. The number of users also spiked each time annual analyses were released, averaging around 1,600 per month. The numbers dropped when less was happening to draw attention to the research; there were just 365 users in September 2017, the lowest number for that year. To get a sense of usage over time, we compared the number of user sessions annually from 2015 to 2017 and observed a steady increase; total sessions grew from 7,406; to 9,863; to 12,225 per year.

In addition to the volume of traffic, we also considered how people are coming to the public website and how they engage with it once they get there. In 2017, the majority of users accessed the site directly (46%) or through search engines like Google (38%), while users were less likely to come through referrals (8%) or social media (6%). When they did, it was most often through Foundation Center and Ariadne, and Twitter and Facebook, respectively. In 2017, site visitors viewed approximately 2.4 pages per session over an average session duration of 3:17 minutes. This exceeds general industry standards and suggests users find the content useful.

We have less information about user behavior with the funders-only map since it is administered differently, but we do know that it was used for 18,955 searches in 2017, which is a slight increase from 2016. However, unlike our stats for the public website, this figure does not filter out use by any Foundation Center or HRFN staff. For both websites, visitors most frequently sought information about the human rights issues we track, followed by populations then regions.

What feedback do people have on the categories we track?

As part of our evaluation, we wanted to understand how well the issues, strategies, populations, and regions we track are meeting the needs of the human rights community. When we asked survey respondents whether the categories provide them with the information they need to be effective in their work, 59% (42/71) said “yes” and 13% (9/71) said “no.”

Many people wanted clearer, more accessible definitions for the topics we track, especially the issues. More than one person noted that the issue titles are not mutually exclusive, which causes confusion in applying them. For example, “social and cultural rights” technically encompasses health, yet in our taxonomy “health and wellness” is its own category. People suggested that we review the titles and definitions for clarity, and make the definitions and issue sub-categories more accessible.

Several people requested clarification about where particular projects fit in the taxonomy or asked for us to track additional issues or sub-issues. One interviewee wanted to know more about funding for child marriage and female genital mutilation and asked that we be more explicit about where sports programs fall. A survey respondent suggested we track funding related to closing civic space, while a funder who works on disability rights wants us to bring our tracking more in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. She explained that the CRPD “[has] innovations on access to rights for persons with disabilities that are key to capture....”

People also made suggestions related to strategies, populations, and regions. Several people recommended that we develop sub-categories for the strategies to help us understand important distinctions. They flagged “research and documentation,” “capacity building and technical assistance,” and “media and technology” as priorities. Regarding populations, people recommended we do more to capture socio-economic status, the informal sector (like domestic workers), rural populations, religious and visible minorities, and racial and ethnic minorities. They also want us to do better at segmenting the populations we currently track, like “LGBTQI” and “women and girls,” and providing data for sub-regions like Central America or the Pacific.

What grantmaking mechanics are most important to track?

In addition to gathering feedback on the categories we track, we wanted to learn what other grant-related considerations people interested in human rights philanthropy want to know more about. To find out, we developed a list of seven items related to the mechanics of grantmaking and asked survey respondents to prioritize up to three or use a write-in option. Figure 6 highlights their responses.

| What considerations related to grantmaking mechanics are most important to track? | % |
|---|-----|
| general support versus project grants | 76% |
| single-year versus multi-year grants | 54% |
| grantmaking to non-registered groups | 51% |
| grantmaking through participatory practices | 38% |
| first-time funding versus renewal grants | 22% |
| funding approaches by funder type (e.g. private foundations, sub-grantors) | 18% |
| proportion of funding channeled through sub-grantors | 15% |

Figure 6: ranking of grantmaking mechanics people are interested to track (72 responses)

In addition to the ideas above, people described other grant-related considerations they want to know more about. Several people said we should do more nuanced tracking of the proportion of funding that reaches target countries directly versus going to international or regional organizations to work in those contexts. Smaller foundations wanted information about the proportion of funding going to grassroots organizations and suggested we take a closer look at grant size in general and small grants in particular. At least one respondent wanted to know how much funding is going to women-led or LGBTQI-led organizations. Several people acknowledged it may be difficult to capture data on these things: “The challenge is that foundations themselves don’t always track this, and even within foundations there may not be consistency.”

A few of the smaller foundations we heard from said they not only look to HRFN for information about funding trends, but also for practical tools and advice they cannot get elsewhere. For instance, Shubha Chacko of Solidarity Foundation said, “One expects from HRFN some sharing of resources like tools someone has developed, or ways of thinking of something. We [as a small foundation] may not be able to hire a consultant, but we may be able to get something useful from HRFN to fill these gaps.” She suggested that the public website would be more valuable if HRFN added elements like case studies, curated tools, and resource experts for the topics highlighted there. This includes tools related to the mechanics of human rights grantmaking.

Several funders expressed interest in learning more about the strategic considerations behind donor decisions to use a human rights framework and prioritize certain strategies. For example, “Why support art rather than media or community organizing?” The representative of a small foundation, in a region suffering concerted attacks on human rights funders and their grantees, said pointedly, “It would be really great to see more about the philosophy behind human rights grantmaking. It would be great to nurture this space with deeper understanding from funders about why this funding approach is important, why it is important to build trust, inclusion, etc. This would be nurturing and inspirational...It’s important to support [funder] communities by providing explanations about the ideas behind these approaches.”

What impact has the research had?

We have heard a variety of anecdotal reports about how the research is being used, so this evaluation was an opportunity to check our ambitions against the actual impact the research is having. We looked at four specific areas for impact, including whether the research is:

- contributing to increased knowledge about the field of human rights philanthropy,
- strengthening grantmaking practice,
- helping funders advocate for greater support to certain programs or issues, and
- facilitating funder collaboration.

Our findings suggest the research has had some impact in all four areas, especially in increasing knowledge.

Increased Knowledge

We asked survey respondents who have used the AHR tools to agree or disagree with a series of statements about whether the research has increased their knowledge about the field. Their responses are highlighted in Figure 7.

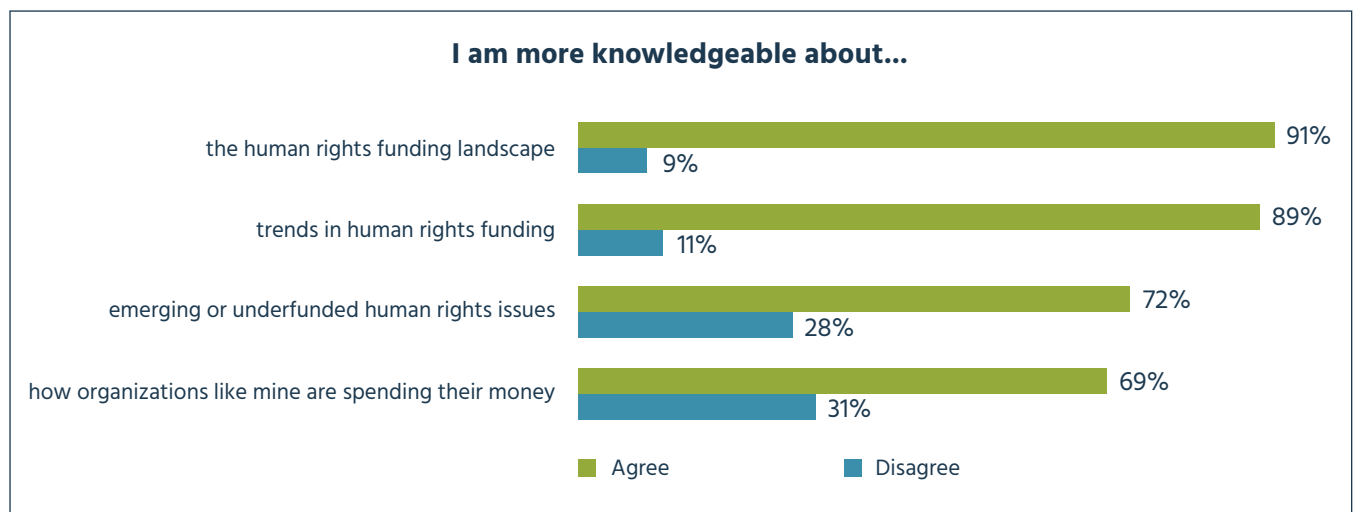


Figure 7: evaluating if the research has contributed to increased knowledge about the field of human rights philanthropy (64 responses)

Funding Landscape and Trends

Funders shared a variety of examples about how the research has helped build their knowledge, including on:

- the actors and funding landscape for sex workers' rights in the US (Third Wave Fund)
- the funding landscape for strategic litigation over time (Open Society Justice Initiative)
- the funding landscape for anti-trafficking work in South Asia (South Asia Women's Fund)

People also described how the research has expanded grantmakers' understanding of the field of human rights philanthropy itself. One interviewee recalled how the AHR research took the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a globally recognized resource, and used it as a framework to help define the field. He said this has helped funders move from thinking about their focus areas—like environmental rights or disability rights—as separate to seeing how they are related and “fall under an umbrella of human rights.” A survey respondent built on this idea, saying the AHR research has helped by “illuminating issues as ‘human rights’ issues that weren’t always seen as ‘human rights’ because of the historic focus on civil and political rights within human rights funding.” She said, “Seeing this expansion in framing in the data is encouraging.”

Miroslava Bobáková from the Slovak-Czech Women's Fund pointed to the role the AHR research plays as a window into the activities of larger, more influential actors in human rights philanthropy. She said of the tools, "They help provide us with understanding of the world around us—other grantmakers and funders—those who create the frameworks and dominate the funding landscape." She said that, as a responsive fund, her foundation looks at the issues being funded in order to inform its thinking about what it should support, and noted it can be challenging to balance the work happening globally with what is feasible locally: "For us it's great to see the big picture, it can be inspirational. But sometimes we realize it's a big problem for us to reach those players who really shape the conversation and make the framework for all of us."

Several stakeholders described how the research has given them a better sense of global funding flows. One asserted, "The AHR certainly has expanded the field's knowledge about what's happening on human rights globally. This has been a huge boon for the sector." A survey respondent from Africa summarized it like this:

"[The AHR research] has demonstrated how global organizing works, highlighting the huge discrepancies in funding between the Global North and Global South. It is very interesting to see what fields have been funded, as well as the large gaps between different funding priorities. I wonder what the landscape would look like in our region if funding in the South were increased."

Emerging or Underfunded Issues

We asked survey respondents whether the research has made them more aware of emerging or underfunded issues. 72% of those (46/64) who had used the AHR tools indicated it had. Funders offered these examples:

"This data helps us identify issues, like that of gender-based violence, where the scope of the problem may not align with the scale of the response." — *HRFN member*

"The research available has allowed us to identify some underfunded issues, [such] as inter-generational leadership and adolescent girls' rights, at the intersection of peace building, conflict and climate change. We are looking at that particular program." — *survey respondent*

An interviewee described how the research has opened people's eyes to issues that may be otherwise overlooked:

"After coming out of the last HRFN conference, I started looking through our organization's website and the websites of other well-recognized organizations across the Americas and realized disability rights isn't front and center as a human rights theme almost anywhere. It was a good moment to reflect on what our own blind spots are." — *Claret Vargas, MSI Integrity*

Spending from Similar Organizations

Finally, funders credited the AHR research with increasing their knowledge about their peers and helping them to better understand their position as a human rights funder in relation to other foundations. They explained:

"I was able to identify which foundations were working on my thematic issue in specific geographies I was exploring. This allowed me to gain a picture of which organizations were being funded from whom..." — *survey respondent*

"I have been able to use the research to explain not only where our work fits into the overall landscape but how it is different from our peers. Very helpful." — *survey respondent*

Strengthened Grantmaking Practice

In addition to increased knowledge, we wanted to know whether funders are acting on what they have learned from the research. To find out, we presented survey respondents who had used the AHR tools with six statements related to their grantmaking practice. Their responses are captured in Figure 8.

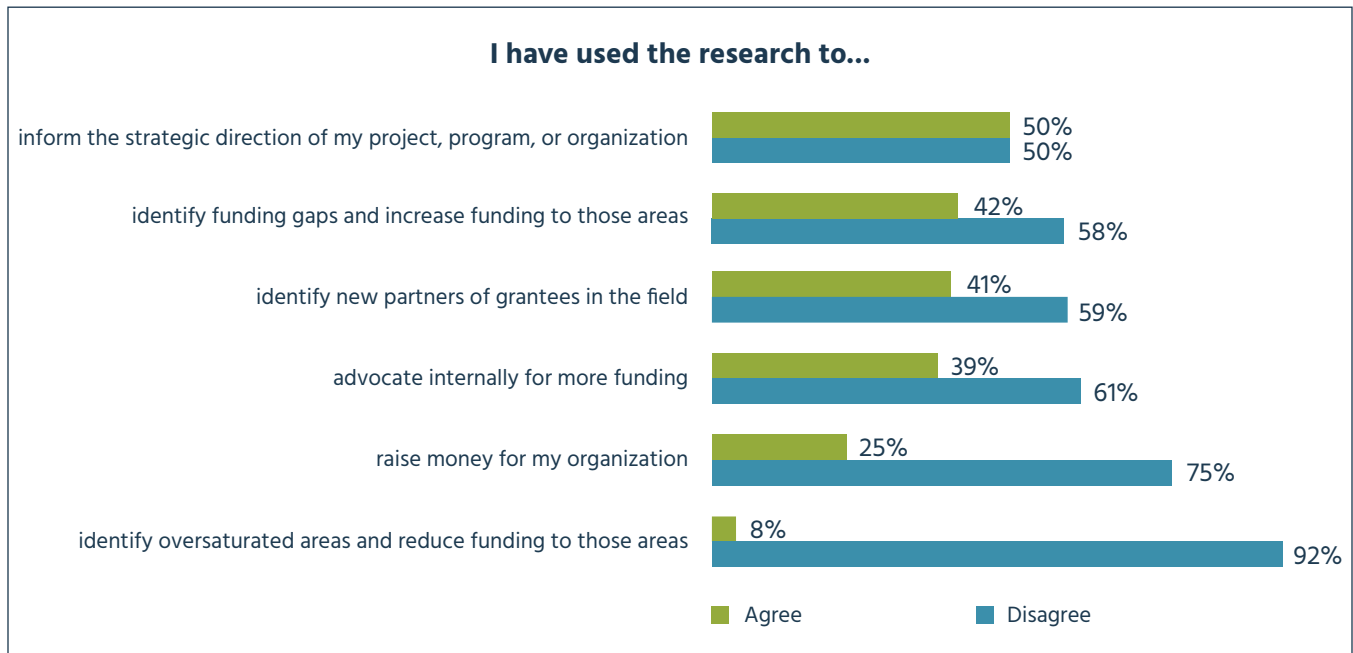


Figure 8: evaluating if the research has contributed to strengthened grantmaking practice (64 responses)

Inform Strategic Direction

Funders described using the research to inform the strategic direction of their programs and organizations. For example, Urgent Action Fund told us they used the research to map the funding landscape in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and the Middle East when it was considering expanding its work in these regions. Thousand Currents used the research to evaluate its potential niche in protecting natural resource defenders in Latin America. Staff from a variety of foundations have reported using the research to inform strategic planning, including the Baring Foundation, NoVo Foundation, Open Society Foundations, Oak Foundation, and Global Fund for Women.

Other funders described using the data to spark or bolster internal discussions. Arlene Wilson-Grant from Disability Rights Fund said her foundation has used the funders-only map and annual analyses to inform its board and advisors about where disability rights fits in the larger human rights funding landscape. Another funder described her efforts to make women and gender a cross-cutting theme throughout her foundation's grantmaking. She said the AHR research was a helpful tool for scoping the landscape and learning about other funders' work, then using this data to make the case to her board. One survey respondent said, "[The data] has catalyzed discussion within my own organization, which contains many divisions, about our spending."

Identify Funding Gaps and Increase Funding / Identify Oversaturated Areas and Decrease Funding

Funders also indicated that they have used the research to make decisions about funding flows. A staff member from Global Dialogue told us that when her organization was thinking about phasing out its support for migration in Turkey, it delayed its exit because the funders-only map showed it was the only funder [at the time] supporting this work. Another funder reported that the funding gaps revealed through the research made her foundation reevaluate its investments:

"I read with great interest and dismay your first report mapping funding of international human rights organizations across the globe. I was shocked to see so few funders in the Caribbean and particularly in Haiti... I can't exit or retrench because I now know that there is a dearth of human rights funders in Haiti." — *HRFN member*

Rights groups said that being able to use the AHR tools to identify funding gaps has illuminated their work, too:

“The [AHR] infographic was useful in that it shows funding across regions, issues, etc. It helps grant seekers in my region see where we are not using funds in the ways other regions are. This may be justifiable because of the context where we work, or it may be an oversight...The research is a way for us to evaluate as grant seekers whether we are engaging in defending human rights in as many ways as we can.” — *Claret Vargas, MSI Integrity*

Identify New Partners or Grantees

Finally, a number of grantmakers have reported using the research to identify new partners or grantees in the field. One funder described using the data to find potential grantees in Peru focused on environmental and resource rights. Likewise, the Fund for Global Human Rights said it used the data to find possible allies to work with its grantees to push back on a restrictive draft law on NGOs.

Greater Funding

Since increasing funding for human rights is one of our goals, we also wanted to know whether the research has helped funders to advocate for more money. 39% of survey respondents (25/64) who had used the AHR tools said they had used them to advocate within their organizations for more funding for a specific issue, region, strategy, or population, and 53% (34/64) believe the research has made them better equipped to argue that institutions should increase funding for their area of work. Meanwhile, 25% of respondents (16/64) who have used the research said it has helped them raise money for their organization. Many funders who rely on fundraising described using the data in grant proposals to make the case for their requests. One funder recalled using the data to show a lack of funding for rights-related research and get peer funders to give additional support.

Funders also noted ways the research has helped their grantees in fundraising. Diana Samarasan from Disability Rights Fund described how the research has helped inspire her grantees to cast a broader net:

“When I shared the data at a convening of our grantees, it gave them a baseline and some associated righteous anger to push for more inclusion in funding to other groups and issues. It encouraged them to think outside the disability box and to consider ways in which their organizations could apply for women’s rights funding, environmental rights funding, etc.”

In one case, an organization was able to use the AHR data to convince government leaders to increase funding for human rights. Reflecting on the successful advocacy, the organization said that it was important to have the numbers from the AHR data to back up its case and that the numbers had “shock value” for the government leaders, who “did not know this funding landscape before [the meeting].”

Deeper Connections

Another goal of the AHR research is to inspire connection and collaboration among funders. We have heard from a number of funders who have used the tools to identify peers. One survey respondent explained, “We’ve used this map to find other donors working in Thailand so we can connect on strategy related issues and build a community of donors focused on human rights issues in the Thai context, as there are so few of us.” Another funder described using the AHR tools to find peers working in Nepal to coordinate responses following the spring 2015 earthquakes. Open Society Foundations, Oak Foundation, American Jewish World Service, Wallace Global Fund, Disability Rights Fund, and numerous smaller foundations, including the Sabanci Foundation and South Asia Women’s Fund, have all used the data to identify fellow funders working in their areas of interest.

Such feedback has formed the basis for our perception that the AHR tools have contributed to a sense of community among funders and growing awareness of the potential to collaborate and connect. That perception was borne out by this evaluation. Two-thirds of survey respondents (66% or 42/64) who had used the tools said they had used them to identify other funders working on their issue, region, strategy, or population, as illustrated in Figure 9.

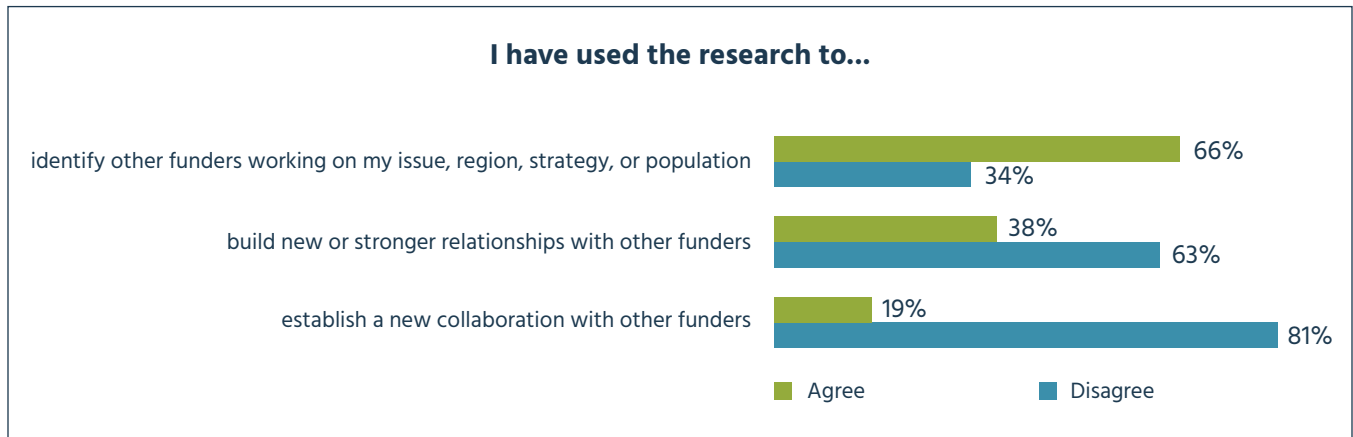


Figure 9: evaluating if the research has contributed to deeper connections among funders (64 responses)

The survey indicated that a smaller number of funders are acting on this information and translating it into concrete collaborations. 38% of respondents (24/64) who had used the AHR tools, had used the research to build new or stronger relationships with other funders, and 19% (12/64) had used the research to establish a new collaboration with other funders. One survey respondent who reached out to peers based on the data described a positive outcome:

“It helped us form a new relationship with another foundation that we might have previously identified as unlikely potential allies—their grants got included in the AHR research because those grants have a human rights focus, even though the foundation does not publicly describe itself as a ‘human rights funder.’”

Greater levels of collaboration among grantmakers is desirable. However, even when funders are not necessarily taking action based on the AHR data, they may benefit from the sense of community the data fosters. One survey respondent reported that an impact of the data has been “encouragement as a small women’s fund to see and be aware we are part of a wide and diverse global movement.” Miroslava Bobáková from the Slovak-Czech Women’s Fund expressed a similar sentiment, saying, “If our numbers are tracked and put into a broader set of numbers we can see ourselves as part of a bigger family. This is very valuable and helps strengthen our identity.”

Influence on the Field

The AHR data has also had ancillary effects on the field of philanthropy. The success of the AHR tools has positioned HRFN as a model for other groups looking to undertake resource mappings in order to track funding for their own populations and issues. This has enabled HRFN to stand as a leader in the field, providing explanations of the methodology involved, functionality of the tools, and lessons learned. For example, Peace and Security Funders Group and Elevate Children Funders Group both looked to the AHR resources in developing their own mappings.

The project has also promoted transparency among funders as a best practice, as these interviewees noted:

“There is this idea that human rights funders are non-transparent. The AHR data says exactly what’s being done.”
— Merrill Sovner, Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society at the Graduate Center, CUNY

“Out of each HRFN event with this data I’ve come away with a much clearer sense of where we need to improve our engagement as human rights organizations, and where we fit in the larger network of human rights organizations on our continent. I’ve gotten a better sense of the degree that human rights funders have dialogue among themselves and grantees. It’s not as much of a black box as far as how priorities are created; it’s not always just the whim of a large donor.” — Claret Vargas, MSI Integrity

What concerns do people have about the research?

A handful of people we heard from raised fundamental concerns about the data captured through the AHR research. This included questioning its accuracy and worrying it could do harm if it over represents funding in the field—like for LGBTQI rights. More than one person expressed concern about the use of automated searches and key terms for coding grants, particularly in relation to the OECD data we track. One survey respondent said this:

“I also question the validity of the quantitative data. The information presented by the FC states that human rights funding has gone up as a proportion of total philanthropic funding. I don’t think that’s accurate—it must be based on flawed data, including a temporary blip due to [Atlantic Philanthropy’s] spenddown and other factors. Philanthropy is growing fast but a small amount goes to human rights. So if anything [the AHR research] made us more confused about the reality of human rights funding.”

A funder familiar with the AHR tools spoke of concerns that the data collected is too broad and goes beyond interventions that fall under a more traditional understanding of human rights work. She explained, “For some of my colleagues, [the AHR research] skews the sense of what people would perceive as money going to the human rights sector. Are these initiatives explicitly using a rights-based approach in their funding, or are they providing support to address human rights problems without using a rights-based lens? If this is the case, should initiatives that aren’t using a rights-based approach be considered human rights funding? I don’t think it’s wrong to capture that information, but I think there should be a way to distinguish between the different types of approaches.” She suggested that we analyze the broad data set and a narrower subset to capture this distinction and better meet the diverse needs of the human rights community.

Several people familiar with the project flagged another concern: how do we prevent the numbers from being taken out of context? Christen Dobson, who was involved in establishing the AHR initiative, recalls a few instances when users of the research misinterpreted the data because they didn’t have an in-depth understanding of the methodology. She recommends developing and sharing more detailed guidance about what the data can do and its limitations. She went on to say, “We should be continuously revisiting the methodology to ensure that we are utilizing the most robust and accurate system possible. Also, if other mappings yield different findings about particular areas of rights funding, we have to remember that they may be using different methodologies and we can learn from one another’s approaches.”

How do we improve the experience for data contributors?

Some 68% of the survey respondents (65/96) said their organizations have contributed data to the AHR project. Of the 45 respondents who were directly involved in submitting data, 84% (38/45) felt the process took a reasonable amount of time and effort, and 93% (42/45) felt the instructions for submitting data were clear and easy to follow. Of the 17 respondents who said their foundations had not contributed data, seven said it was because they did not know about the AHR research and three said the process was too labor intensive and/or time consuming. None said it was because they prefer not to share data or are concerned about security, though colleagues from Ariadne have observed a drop in data sharing among members which may be related to security concerns.

Several program officers who have inputted data manually described the process as onerous. One grantmaker who submitted data this way in the past recalled, “It was so much information and I ended up spending several days manually inputting it. They wanted all of our grants, and for us to say which ones were human rights ones. It was really time consuming and daunting.” The process was, in fact, so burdensome that the program officer declined to submit data the following year. A turning point came when she learned she could generate a report automatically from her grants database. She and others emphasized the game changing experience of being able to export data automatically. One funder noted that even with the automated options, grant coding still takes time.

When asked how the data collection process could be improved, survey respondents were largely in favor of having us coordinate with other organizations that collect grants data to use a standard template (53% or 33/62), establish a more regular annual reporting schedule (47% or 29/62), and provide additional guidance on security protocols for data sharing (34% or 21/62). Respondents shared additional suggestions, including that we provide more clarity on how the data will be used, clarify our translation practices, accept submissions on a quarterly basis, and update our template to be compatible with 360Giving.

Offer Encouragement

Several stakeholders we heard from see getting more and diverse funders to contribute data directly to the project as a priority, including data from emerging market funders. Interviewees offered suggestions for getting grantmakers to share their data. Maura Sullivan of the Henry M. Jackson Foundation recommended that we include a line in our data request encouraging foundations that may be struggling with our template to send whatever data they have readily available as a starting point. She explained, “You don’t want people to give up and dread the emails every year.” One interviewee suggested that “[HRFN] should work on a communications plan for getting more funders to submit their data in a timely way by showing a real-time picture. For example, ‘In June we have this much data, help us get to X.’” Lori Klos of Ariadne described how frequent staff turnover at foundations means we must continually build new relationships to encourage participation in the project, which takes time. She recommended that we work to reach more staff in each organization to convey the merit of this research and make it part of the fabric of foundations.

Reduce Burden

People also offered recommendations for how we could reduce the time and effort involved in data collection. Multiple foundations noted the challenge of determining which grants to include and how to code them. As one respondent explained, “As our grants are not directly ‘human rights’ funding, it is difficult to sort what grants to submit and which not. This takes time to sort out.” One person who had previously coded grants for a foundation recommended moving toward more automation in our grant analysis and relying on grant descriptions rather than funder coding. She cautioned that some level of human review will always be needed for quality control, and advised HRFN to keep looking at the big grants, pay attention to new lingo and jargon as the field evolves to keep the taxonomy up-to-date, review sensitive grant areas (e.g. LGBTI, sex workers), and partner with specialized affinity groups doing mappings where we can sync data. She reflected, “With this kind of project, you’ll probably always have to be revising and revisiting. It will never get to a place where it’s done.”

Provide Technical Assistance

Funders also shared ideas for how we can provide more support to data submitters. One funder who has switched to submitting automated grant reports using her foundation’s software speculated that “there may be other grants managers who do not know they could just push a button to export their data into a report.” She suggested HRFN get a sense of which databases funders are using, and consider pairing new contributors with experienced contributors like her for technical assistance and moral support. Another grantmaker said she had tried to use one of the automated reports but decided against it when she saw that the only guidance available was a 42-minute video. She advised that we provide software instructions in both written and video form, “since people take in information differently.”

Several people noted how challenging reporting is for smaller foundations that may not have designated grants management staff or internal systems for capturing grant details. Pedro Lagatta of Brazil Human Rights Fund suggested, “One option could be to provide funders with grants management systems, advice, and resources. For those foundations who don’t have systems, they are probably the ones who have the most trouble filling in the template. This would help small foundations and give HRFN quality information about the field.” He also proposed that we develop a more automated template with checkboxes to make grant coding easier.

How do we improve outreach and uptake?

41% of survey respondents (7/17) who said their organizations have not contributed data to the AHR research said it was because they had not known about it. Likewise, most survey respondents (67% or 12/18) who indicated they have not used the AHR tools said it was because they were not aware of them. Stakeholders provided a range of suggestions for how we can increase funders' awareness of the tools and get more people using them. The recommendations fell into three general categories: how we frame the research, training tactics, and dissemination strategies.

Framing

A number of recommendations were related to how we explain and contextualize the research so people understand what it means and why it matters. Numerous survey respondents (57% or 41/72) said we should work with funders to dig deeper into the meaning of the data. Several people suggested we do more to pair our quantitative findings with qualitative research to make them more tangible and help us draw conclusions. Others said we need to more clearly explain our methodology, including the dataset. Shubha Chacko from Solidarity Foundation suggested we publicize the ways funders are using the research and what it has allowed them to do in order to give others—like her—ideas for how they can use it, too. Like Shubha, several survey respondents expressed interest in seeing funder testimonials about the tools' usefulness (18% or 13/72).

People also gave suggestions for how we can make our resources more relatable. Andrew Milner, a freelance journalist who reports on philanthropy, liked the idea of adding more stories and illustrations to our tools as a way to contextualize key themes. He explained, “[Data] are an abstraction, bones without flesh,” and suggested we do more to link the data to people: “In my experience people relate most readily to other people, so it's always good if you can introduce a living person into a narrative.”

Pedro Lagatta from Brazil Human Rights Fund advised that the key to outreach is capturing grantmakers' attention by showing that HRFN is offering something they need. He said, “Funders are busy, so you have to be persuasive and show them what's in it for them... If you can assure them they can get this information more effectively, and invest less time and effort, you probably have their attention even if they are overloaded.” He added that his foundation prioritizes work with small and medium-size organizations that can be hard to identify, so the grant-level information HRFN provides through its funders-only map is particularly valuable. Pedro also noted the resources funders spend on conducting their own mappings and said showing them that the AHR tools offer something more cost effective is another way to get their interest.

Training Tactics

People also thought more training about the tools would help. Survey respondents were keen to see HRFN lead demonstrations about how to use the tools (42% or 30/72) and create a virtual tutorial (44% or 32/72). One respondent based in Asia found it hard to attend HRFN's instructional webinars because of the time difference, and asked that we offer more time options. One grantmaker noted that if she saw a webinar opportunity with an attention-grabbing title like “How to use research to make you a better grantmaker” she would try to attend.

Several people stressed the importance of in-person meetings where participants can learn about and discuss the data. As one survey respondent explained, “It helps to have physical meetings where contributors to the mapping meet, discuss, identify trends...” An interviewee agreed: “The forums HRFN creates to discuss these funding priorities are a necessary compliment to these tools.” At least two interviewees suggested that HRFN hold dedicated sessions at all of its conferences to demonstrate how to use the tools, and “not at 8am when most folks are absent, and not optional.” One of them suggested offering refresher courses and brown bags for foundations, noting that funders are busy, so it can be hard to get them to stop and look at the resources.

Dissemination

Several people recommended specific distribution channels for promoting the research. For example, one interviewee said, “I would love to have people do more on social media—Twitter, Facebook, blogs—to promote dialogue. If you look at the feeds of HRFN and Foundation Center, there's not a great deal of dialogue with organizations. You could consider having specific ambassadors—like highly followed human rights leaders who have a social media presence—disseminate the data and information if they use it...To me the biggest thing would be if other grantmakers could refer to it and say what is useful about it to them.” Other people echoed

this last point, suggesting that we encourage our foundation members to include information about the AHR resources on their websites and in their newsletters.

Respondents also flagged how the research provides an entry point for engaging with funders beyond our usual scope. As one person close to the project explained, “There are a number of non-HRFN members who are funding work that meets the human rights definition.” She pointed out that there is an enormous opportunity to be tapped if HRFN can figure out how to engage with those funders and get them involved in the network. As a way to engage this group, one funder suggested that HRFN continue to attend conferences of philanthropic bodies beyond its usual sphere like PEAK Grantmaking and Grantmakers for Effective Organizations, to bring a human rights lens to those discussions.

Where do we go from here?

We appreciate the rich feedback people have shared with us about ways we can strengthen the AHR research to better serve the human rights community and have synthesized our findings in this report. It will serve as a launching point for discussion as we work with partners to prioritize and plan our next steps, grounded in the insights and needs of our membership and beyond.

In reflecting on the research, one of the pioneers of the AHR research explained, “There’s no such thing as perfect data; it will always be a representation. But having some type of representation is important to help us know what’s happening in the field.” We remain committed to providing the human rights community with data to improve the effectiveness of human rights philanthropy. As we strive to do better we will continue to learn and evolve along with the field.

Appendix A: Contributors

This evaluation was conducted by Rachel Thomas of HRFN and Acacia Shields an independent consultant. HRFN is grateful to the individuals listed below for providing their time and insights into the evaluation’s design and findings, and our partners at Foundation Center, Ariadne, and Prospera for their ongoing collaboration. We would also like to thank the many HRFN members who are not named here but have provided feedback over the years about their experiences using the research.

Research Advisory Committee

Lesley Carson, Wellspring Philanthropic Fund
 Augusta Hagen-Dillon, Prospera—the International Network of Women’s Funds
 Lorena Klos, Ariadne—European Funders for Social Change and Human Rights
 Carla López, Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres
 David Sampson, The Baring Foundation
 Jesenia Santana, NoVo Foundation
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 Mandy Van Deven, Foundation for a Just Society

Interviewees

Miroslava Bobáková, Slovak-Czech Women’s Fund
 Jenna Capeci, Human Rights Funders Network
 Shubha Chacko, Solidarity Foundation
 Salome Chagelishvile, Women’s Fund Georgia
 Mona Chun, Human Rights Funders Network
 Amy Costello, Tiny Spark
 Christen Dobson, Business and Human Rights Resource Centre
 Hanan Elmasu, Oak Foundation
 Sue Gunawardena-Vaughn, Open Society Foundations
 Yvonne Henry, Women Win
 Steve Khan, Ontario Trillium Foundation
 Rachel LaForgia, Peace and Security Funders Group
 Pedro Lagatta, Brazil Human Rights Fund
 Steven Lawrence, TCC Group
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 Nana Patsulaia, Women’s Fund Georgia
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 Maura Sullivan, The Henry M. Jackson Foundation
 Claret Vargas, MSI Integrity
 Arlene Wilson-Grant, Disability Rights Fund

Additional Contributors

Maha Abushama, Sigrid Rausing Trust
 Matty Hart, Global Philanthropy Project
 Inga Ingulfsen, Foundation Center
 Anna Koob, Foundation Center
 Amira Maaty, National Endowment for Democracy
 Diana Samarasan, Disability Rights Fund
 Anne-Sophie Schaeffer, Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders
 Sarah Tansey, Human Rights Funders Network

Appendix B: Survey Questions

1. **What is your role in philanthropy? (98 responses)**
 - a. Governance - 3% (3)
 - b. Management - 19% (19)
 - c. Programs - 34% (33)
 - d. Grants management - 24% (24)
 - e. Consultant/advisor - 5% (5)
 - f. Other (please specify) - 14% (14)

2. **In which networks are you a member? (Please check all that apply.) (98 responses)**
 - a. Ariadne - 38% (37)
 - b. Prospera - 27% (26)
 - c. Human Rights Funders Network - 60% (59)
 - d. None of the above - 13% (13)

3. **In what country are you based? (98 responses)**
 - a. Africa - 8% (8)
 - b. Asia and the Pacific - 7% (7)
 - c. Canada and the United States - 42% (41)
 - d. Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Russia - 8% (8)
 - e. Latin America and Mexico - 7% (7)
 - f. Western Europe - 28% (27)

4. **How many years have you worked in philanthropy? (98 responses)**
 - a. 0-5 years - 28% (27)
 - b. 6-10 years - 31% (30)
 - c. 11-15 years - 18% (18)
 - d. 16 or more years - 23% (23)
 - e. I do not work in philanthropy. - 0% (0)

5. **What is your age? (98 responses)**
 - a. Under 30 years - 8% (8)
 - b. 30-44 years - 49% (48)
 - c. 45-64 years - 40% (39)
 - d. 65 years or older - 2% (2)
 - e. I'd rather no say. - 1% (1)

6. **What is the name of your organization? (92 responses from 76 organizations)**

7. **Approximately how many staff people (full and part-time) work at your organization? (98 responses)**
 - a. 1-10 - 46% (45)
 - b. 10-35 - 26% (25)
 - c. 35 or more - 28% (27)
 - d. I don't know. - 1% (1)

8. **Thinking about the field of philanthropy, how important do you think it is to have quantitative data about the funding landscape? (97 responses)**
- a. Very important - 51% (49)
 - b. Important - 38% (37)
 - c. Somewhat important - 11% (11)
 - d. Not important at all - 0% (0)
9. **Thinking about your work, to what extent do you rely on quantitative data to inform your grantmaking? (97 responses)**
- a. Very much - 27% (26)
 - b. Somewhat - 51% (49)
 - c. Not much - 15% (15)
 - d. Not at all - 4% (4)
 - e. N/A - 3% (3)
10. **Has your institution contributed grants data to this initiative in the past? (96 responses)**
- a. Yes, we have contributed data. - 68% (65)
 - b. No, we have not contributed data. - 18% (17)
 - c. I don't know. - 15% (14)
11. **If your organization has not contributed data, why not? (Please check all that apply.) (17 responses)**
- a. We did not know about this initiative. - 41% (7)
 - b. We prefer not to share our data. - 0% (0)
 - c. The process for submitting data is too labor intensive and/or time consuming. - 18% (3)
 - d. We generally favor sharing data but are concerned it could jeopardize the security of our organization or grantees. - 0% (0)
 - e. My organization does not make grants. - 12% (2)
 - f. I don't know. - 18% (3)
 - g. Other (please specify) - 24% (4)
12. **Were you directly involved in contributing data from your organization? If so, how did the experience compare with your expectations? (62 responses)**

| | Strongly Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | N/A |
|--|----------------|----------|----------|-------------------|----------|
| The process for submitting data took a reasonable amount of time and effort. | 10% (6) | 52% (32) | 11% (7) | 0% (0) | 27% (17) |
| The instructions for submitting data were clear and easy to follow. | 16% (10) | 52% (32) | 5% (3) | 0% (0) | 27% (17) |

13. **How can we improve our data collection process in the future? (Please check all that apply.) (62 responses)**
- a. Establish a more regular annual reporting schedule. - 47% (29)
 - b. Coordinate with other organizations collecting grants data to use a standard template. - 53% (33)
 - c. Provide additional guidance on the process for submitting data. - 23% (14)
 - d. Provide additional guidance on the security protocols for sharing data. - 34% (21)
 - e. I don't know. - 18% (11)
 - f. Other (please specify) - 13% (8)

14. Which tools were you aware of prior to this survey? (92 responses)

| Tools | Aware Of | Unaware Of |
|----------------------|----------|------------|
| The public website | 79% (73) | 21% (19) |
| The funders-only map | 67% (62) | 33% (30) |
| The annual analyses | 65% (60) | 35% (32) |

15. Where did you first hear about these tools? (Please check any that apply.) (92 responses)

- From a friend or colleague - 25% (23)
- Meeting or conference - 46% (42)
- Newsletter, listserv, or blog - 33% (30)
- Webinar - 4% (4)
- Demonstration at my office - 4% (4)
- Through this survey - 14% (13)
- Other (please specify) - 4% (4)

16. How often do you use these tools in your work? (92 responses)

- Once per week - 0% (0)
- Once per month - 11% (10)
- Once per quarter - 38% (35)
- Once per year - 33% (30)
- Never - 18% (17)

17. Do you encourage colleagues to access and make use of these tools? (92 responses)

- Yes - 61% (56)
- No - 39% (36)

18. If you do not use the tools, why is that? (Please check all that apply.) (18 responses)

- I wasn't aware of these tools. - 67% (12)
- I don't have time. - 11% (2)
- The data is too general. - 6% (1)
- The data is confusing. - 0% (0)
- I use data from other sources. - 11% (2)
- I don't know. - 6% (1)
- Other (please specify) - 22% (4)

19. [For those haven't used the tools] How likely are you to use these tools in your work in the future? (18 responses)

| Tools | Likely | Unlikely |
|----------------------|----------|----------|
| The public website | 78% (14) | 22% (4) |
| The funders-only map | 78% (14) | 22% (4) |
| The annual analyses | 83% (15) | 17% (3) |

20. If you have used these tools, how useful has each tool been to your work? (75 responses)

| Tools | Very Useful | Useful | Somewhat | Not Useful | N/A |
|----------------------|-------------|----------|----------|------------|----------|
| The public website | 5% (4) | 51% (38) | 31% (23) | 4% (3) | 9% (7) |
| The funders-only map | 15% (11) | 33% (25) | 13% (10) | 5% (4) | 33% (25) |
| The annual analyses | 15% (11) | 39% (29) | 21% (16) | 0% (0) | 25% (19) |

21. [For those who've used the tools] How likely are you to use these tools in your work in the future? (75 responses)

| Tools | Likely | Unlikely |
|----------------------|----------|----------|
| The public website | 93% (70) | 7% (5) |
| The funders-only map | 92% (69) | 8% (6) |
| The annual analyses | 87% (65) | 13% (10) |

22. Other than the AHR public website, funders-only map, and annual analyses, what tools are you using to get quantitative data about grantmaking on human rights or your focus area? (71 responses)

- None - 59% (42)
- I use the following tools: - 41% (29)

23. How do the AHR tools compare to the tools you've listed above? (71 responses)

- Not applicable - 79% (56)
- They compare in these ways: - 21% (15)

24. [For those who've used the tools] How likely are you to use these tools in your work in the future? (75 responses)

| I have used the research to... | Agree | Disagree |
|---|----------|----------|
| identify other funders working on my issue, region, strategy, or population | 66% (42) | 34% (22) |
| build new or stronger relationships with other funders | 38% (24) | 63% (40) |
| establish a new collaboration with other funders | 19% (12) | 81% (52) |

25. Has the research strengthened your grantmaking practice? (64 responses)

| I have used the research to... | Agree | Disagree |
|--|----------|----------|
| inform the strategic direction of my project, program, or organization | 50% (32) | 50% (32) |
| identify funding gaps and increase funding to those areas | 42% (27) | 58% (37) |
| identify new partners or grantees in the field | 41% (41) | 59% (38) |
| advocate internally for more funding for an issue, region, strategy, or population | 39% (25) | 61% (39) |
| raise money for my organization | 25% (16) | 75% (48) |
| identify oversaturated areas and reduce funding to those areas | 8% (5) | 92% (59) |

26. Has the research changed your understanding of the field of human rights philanthropy? (64 responses)

| I am more knowledgeable about... | Agree | Disagree |
|--|----------|----------|
| the human rights funding landscape | 91% (58) | 9% (6) |
| trends in human rights funding | 89% (57) | 11% (7) |
| emerging or underfunded human rights issues | 72% (46) | 28% (18) |
| how organizations like mine are spending their money | 69% (44) | 31% (20) |

27. Has the research changed your understanding of the field of human rights philanthropy? (64 responses)

| I am better equipped to... | Agree | Disagree |
|---|----------|----------|
| argue that institutions should increase funding for my area of work | 53% (34) | 47% (30) |

28. Please provide an example of how the AHR research has affected your work. If it has not affected your work, please say so. (38 responses)
29. On the public website, we track these 9 regions, 13 issues, 11 strategies, and 8 populations. Through the funders-only map you can access country-level data and 25 issue subcategories. Do these breakdowns provide you with the information you need to be effective in your work? (71 responses)
- Yes, these categories meet my needs. - 59% (42)
 - I don't know. - 28% (20)
 - No, these categories do not meet my needs (please elaborate). - 13% (9)
30. What other considerations do you think are most important to track in relation to the mechanics of human rights grantmaking? (Please select up to 3.) (72 responses)
- General support versus project grants - 76% (55)
 - Single-year versus multi-year grants - 54% (39)
 - Grantmaking to non-registered groups - 51% (37)
 - Grantmaking through participatory practices - 38% (27)
 - First-time funding versus renewal grants - 22% (16)
 - Funding approaches by funder type (e.g. private foundations, sub-grantors) - 18% (13)
 - Proportion of funding channeled through sub-grantors - 15% (11)
 - Other (please specify) - 3% (2)
31. Please describe any additional changes that would make the AHR research more useful for your work. (69 responses)
- I don't know. - 87% (60)
 - Additional changes: - 13% (9)
32. Is there any additional research on human rights grantmaking that you would like to see? (67 responses)
- I don't know. - 70% (47)
 - Additional research: - 30% (20)
33. Which types of outreach are most effective for informing funders about the AHR data and how it can be used? (Please select up to two for us to prioritize.) (72 responses)
- Work with funders to dig deeper into the meaning of the data. - 57% (41)
 - Lead demonstrations about how to use the tools. - 42% (30)
 - Share funder testimonials about the tools' usefulness. - 18% (13)
 - Create a virtual tutorial. - 44% (32)
 - Other (please specify) - 7% (5)
34. Are you willing to participated in a brief interview on this topic? If so, please enter your name, organization, and email below. (17 responses)
35. Are there others working in human rights philanthropy you think we should interview? If so, please share their names and contact information below. (4 responses)