

ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS

FOUNDATION FUNDING FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

— October 2022 —



HRFN

Human Rights
Funders Network

The State of Funding for Human Rights Defenders: Reasons for Optimism

- We have documented a 158% increase in foundation support for HRDs since we began our research, from \$9.3 million in 2011 to \$24 million in 2019.
- In 2019, the number of grants grew by 45% from the previous year and the number of funders supporting HRDs expanded by 17%.

The State of Funding for Human Rights Defenders: Reasons for Concern

- Philanthropic support is extremely limited for communities on the frontlines of human rights struggles.
- Of the \$4.1 billion global human rights grant dollars we mapped in 2019, only 0.6% went to support HRDs and these grants were awarded by just 54 funders.

The Challenges of Mapping HRD Support

- How funders conceptualize and talk about their work has a significant impact on our ability to accurately identify and categorize these grants.
- We encourage funders to anonymize information that is not safe to be made public and could place grantees or communities at risk.

Who Funds HRDs?

TOP FUNDERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS BY GRANT DOLLARS IN 2019

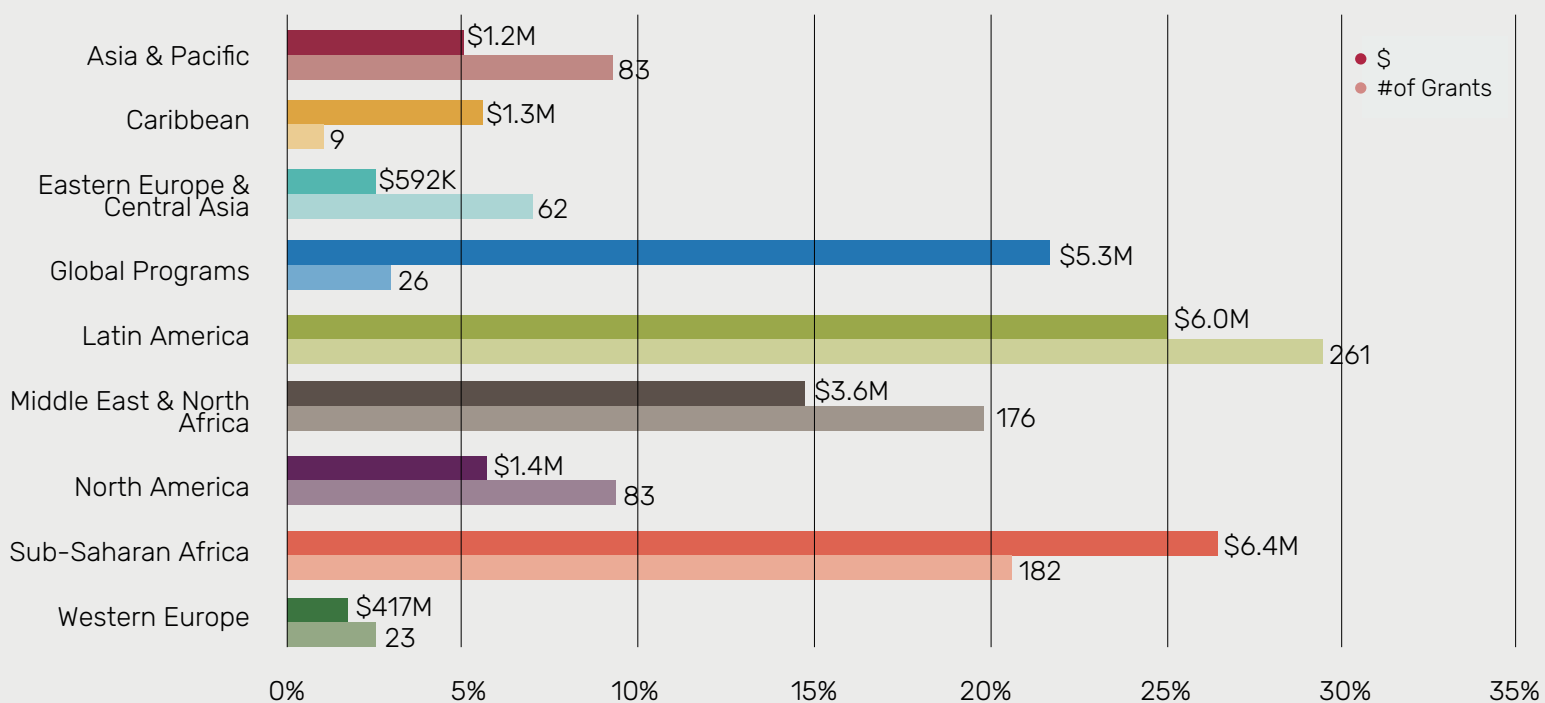
	Foundation	\$	% of HRD \$
1	Schmidt Family Foundation	\$4,665,500	19%
2	Foundation for a Just Society	\$4,080,000	17%
3	Oak Foundation	\$2,931,818	12%
4	Ford Foundation	\$2,700,000	11%
5	Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders	\$2,019,053	8%
6	Open Society Policy Center	\$1,856,773	8%
7	Foundation to Promote Open Society	\$1,735,000	7%
8	Front Line Defenders	\$1,701,194	7%
9	Wellspring Philanthropic Fund	\$1,425,000	6%
10	Urgent Action Fund Africa	\$1,173,648	5%

TOP FUNDERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS BY GRANT NUMBERS IN 2019

	Foundation	# of Grants	% of HRD Grants
1	Urgent Action Fund Africa	184	21%
2	Urgent Action Fund for Latin America and the Caribbean	166	19%
3	Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights	165	19%
4	Euro-Mediterranean Foundation of Support to Human Rights Defenders	105	12%
5	Urgent Action Fund Asia for Women's Human Rights Asia & Pacific	50	6%
6	Brazil Human Rights Fund	33	4%
7	American Jewish World Service	26	3%
8	Schmidt Family Foundation	25	3%
9	Fund for Global Human Rights	19	2%
10	Norwegian Human Rights Fund	14	2%

Funding by Region

Foundation Funding for Human Rights Defenders by Region in 2019



Region totals include both grants directly to recipients based in the region specified and grants to recipients located in other regions to do work benefiting the region specified. The full value of a grant is assigned to each region specified in the grant.



*The human rights defenders
community remains
significantly under-resourced.*