

Where is the Money for Indigenous Women's Rights Organizing?

PRELIMINARY RESEARCH RESULTS



Objectives of Research

Objective 1: Generate hard data on the funding realities and trends for indigenous women's rights organizing

Objective 2: Gain deeper insight into how indigenous women's organizations and donors understand how change happens (theory of change) in relation to increasing women's rights and gender equality.

Objective 3: Deepen our understanding of key networking and collaboration approaches that enhance movement building and complementarity.



Methodologies To Date

Data Analysis from 2013-2014 Funding cycle for International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI)

Data Analysis from 2010-2011 Foundation Center

Anonymous surveys with five IFIP members

Data Analysis from IFAD and UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality (in process)

Ten extended interviews (seven were with funders and three were with indigenous activists).

Input from Advisory Committee members which includes four indigenous women activists and five donors committed to indigenous women's rights



Who is Included in this study?

Bilateral and Multilateral Organizations

Women's Funds

Public Foundations

Private Foundations

International NGOs*



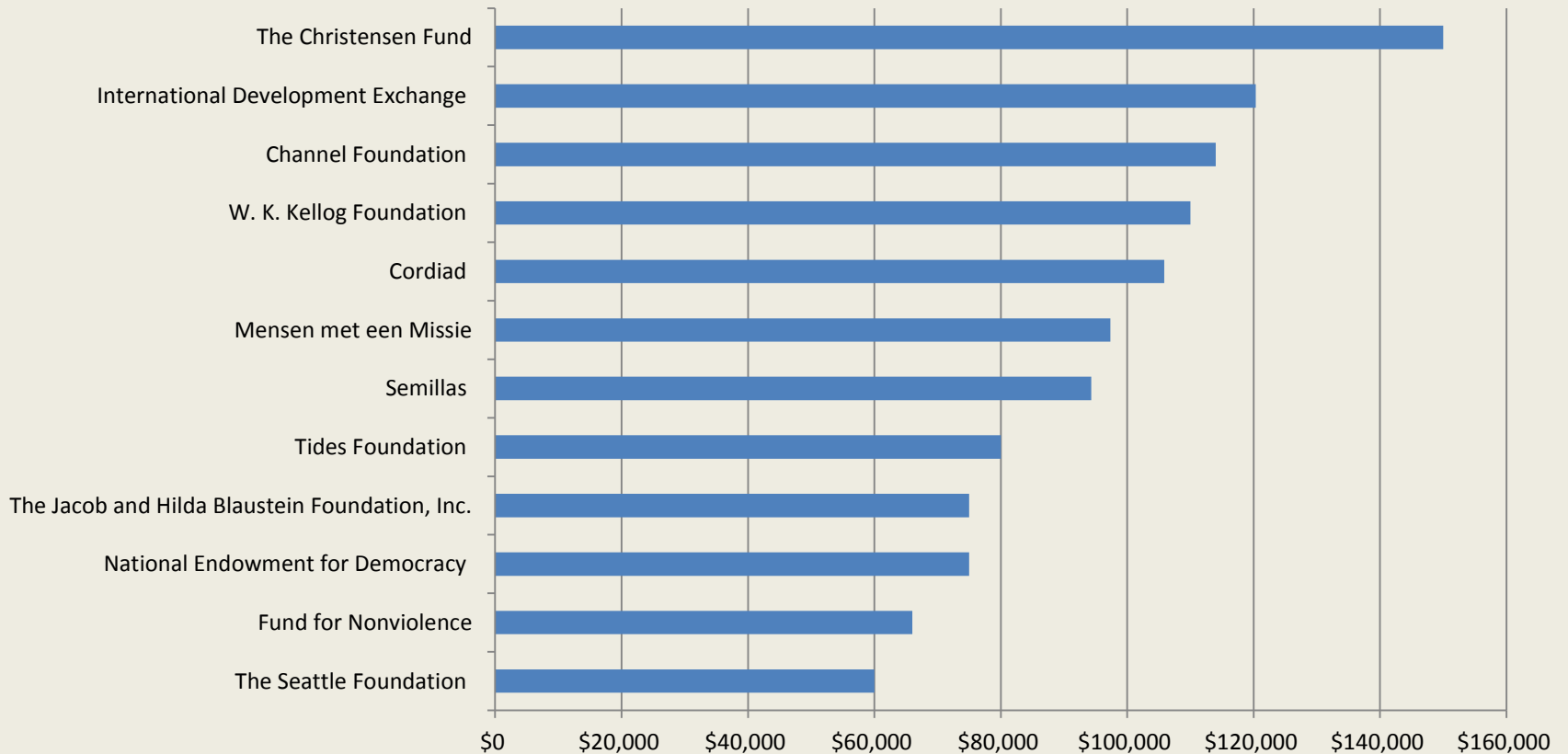
Foundation Center and IHRFG Data

- Total grants by 745 Foundations in 34 Countries total \$1.7 billion!
- Indigenous women's right organizations received a total of \$14,524,687



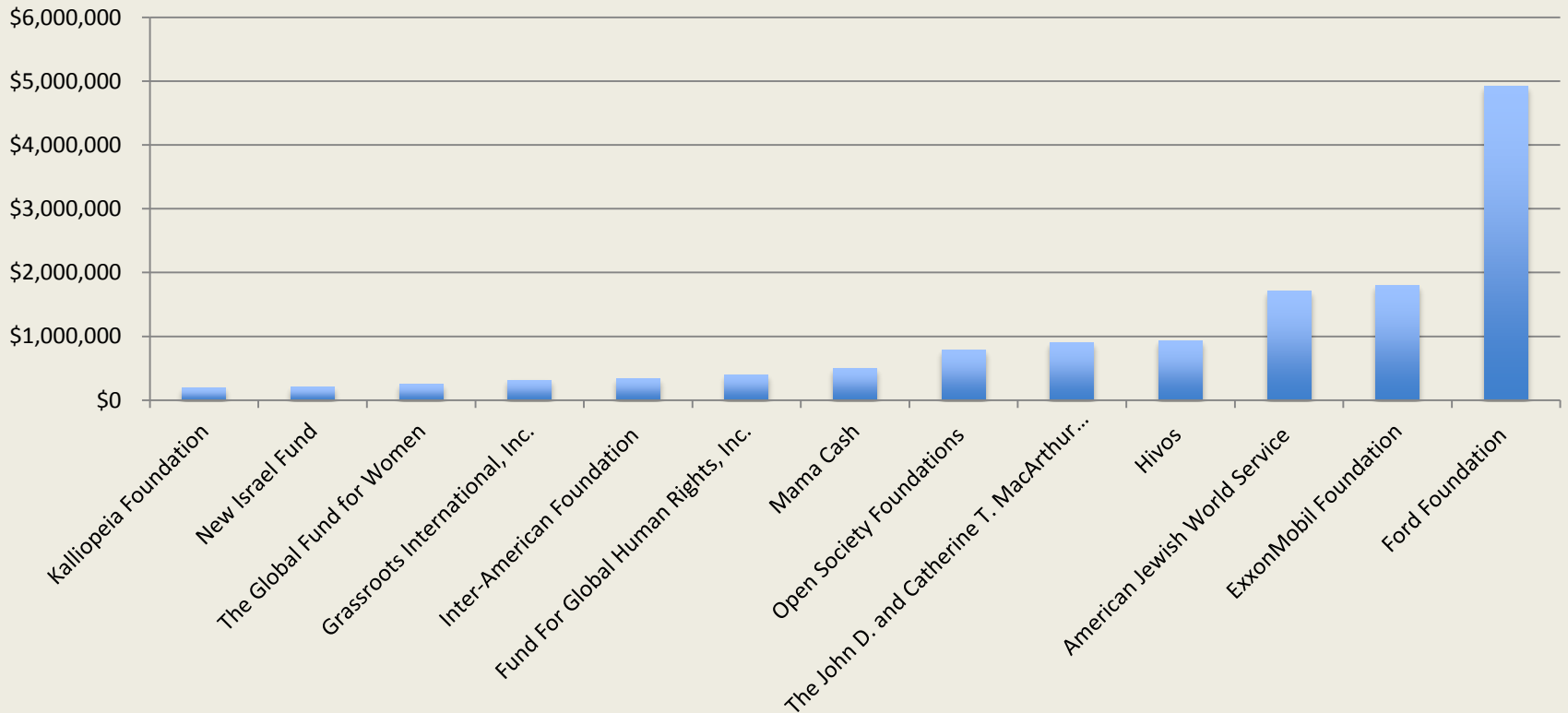
Foundation Center and IHRFG Data

Foundation Center Total Grant Amounts between \$50,000 and \$150,000



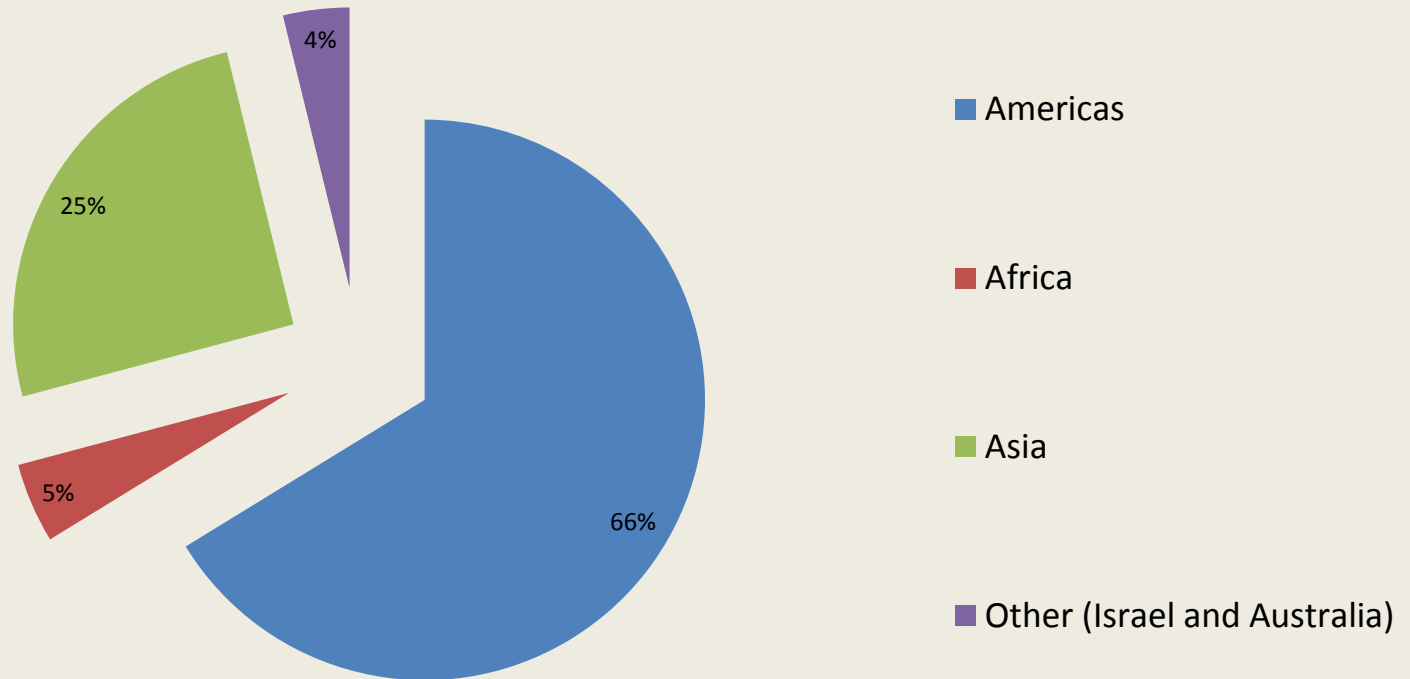
Foundation Center and IHRFG Data

Foundation Center Total Grant Amounts Equalling Greater than \$150,000

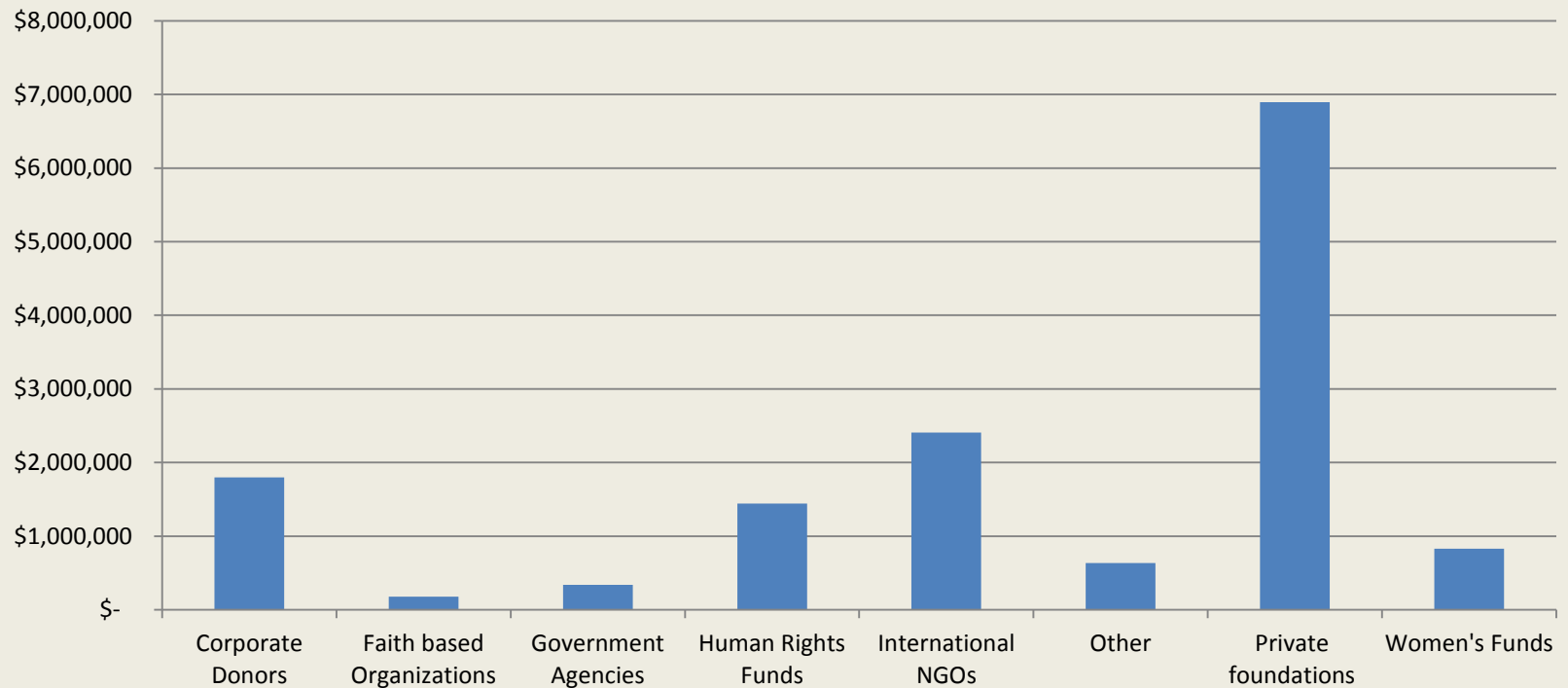


Foundation Center and IHRFG Data

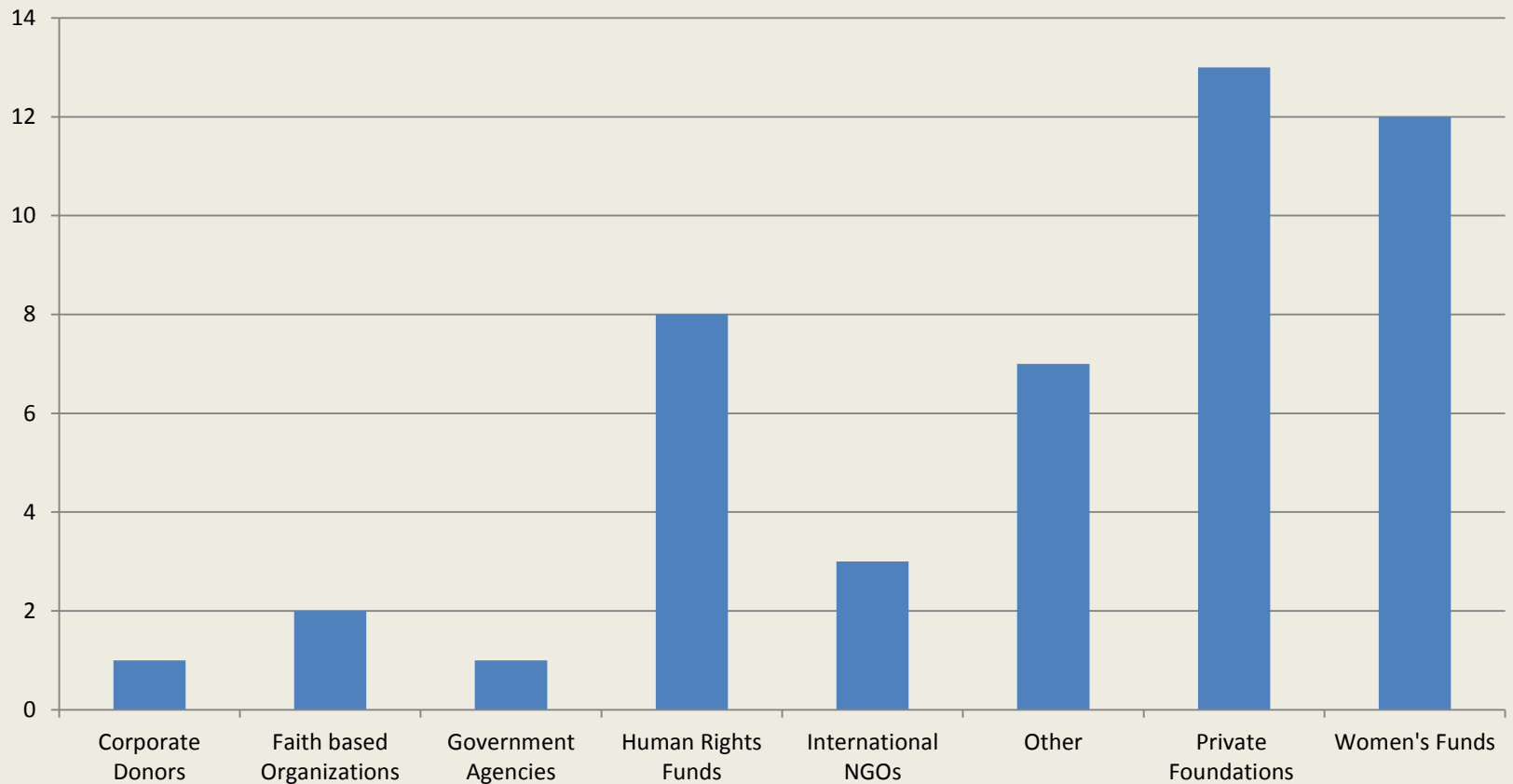
Regional breakdown of Funding for Indigenous Women



Donor Breakdown by Sector and Funding Amount



Number of Organizations Funded by Each Sector



Foundation Center Findings

The three top funders are Ford Foundation (Private Foundation) Exxon Mobil Foundation (Corporate Donor), and American Jewish World Service (INGO).

Ford Foundation contributed \$4,920,126 to a total of 11 countries and 2 U.S. states. This makes the private foundation sector the largest for funding of indigenous women's rights.

The second two largest funders contributed \$1,800,000 (Exxon Mobil) and \$1,380,598 (American World Jewish Service).

Women's Funds provided \$831,082 to indigenous women's rights. While the amount is relatively small, the number of organizations in this sector that prioritize indigenous women's issues is nevertheless striking.

Regional distribution of grant dollars is highly disproportionate with the least amount of support allocated to Africa.



Questions Foundation Center Data Doesn't Answer

How is 'indigenous' defined across different regions and how might this impact funding?

How many of these groups have women in leadership positions?

How many of the funded groups are larger NGOs vs. indigenous organizations?

Among grants for indigenous women, which issues and which strategies are being funded?



FIMI: A Case Study

When “indigenous women” is not simply measured by pre-existing metrics but is the starting point for the research, what do we learn about funding priorities, needs, and issues?



FIMI Overview

Information from FIMI was from the 2013-2014 grant cycle.

150 eligible proposals could have been funded if FIMI had additional \$700,000!

FIMI provided funds for a total of 18 projects from Asia, Africa, and Americas.

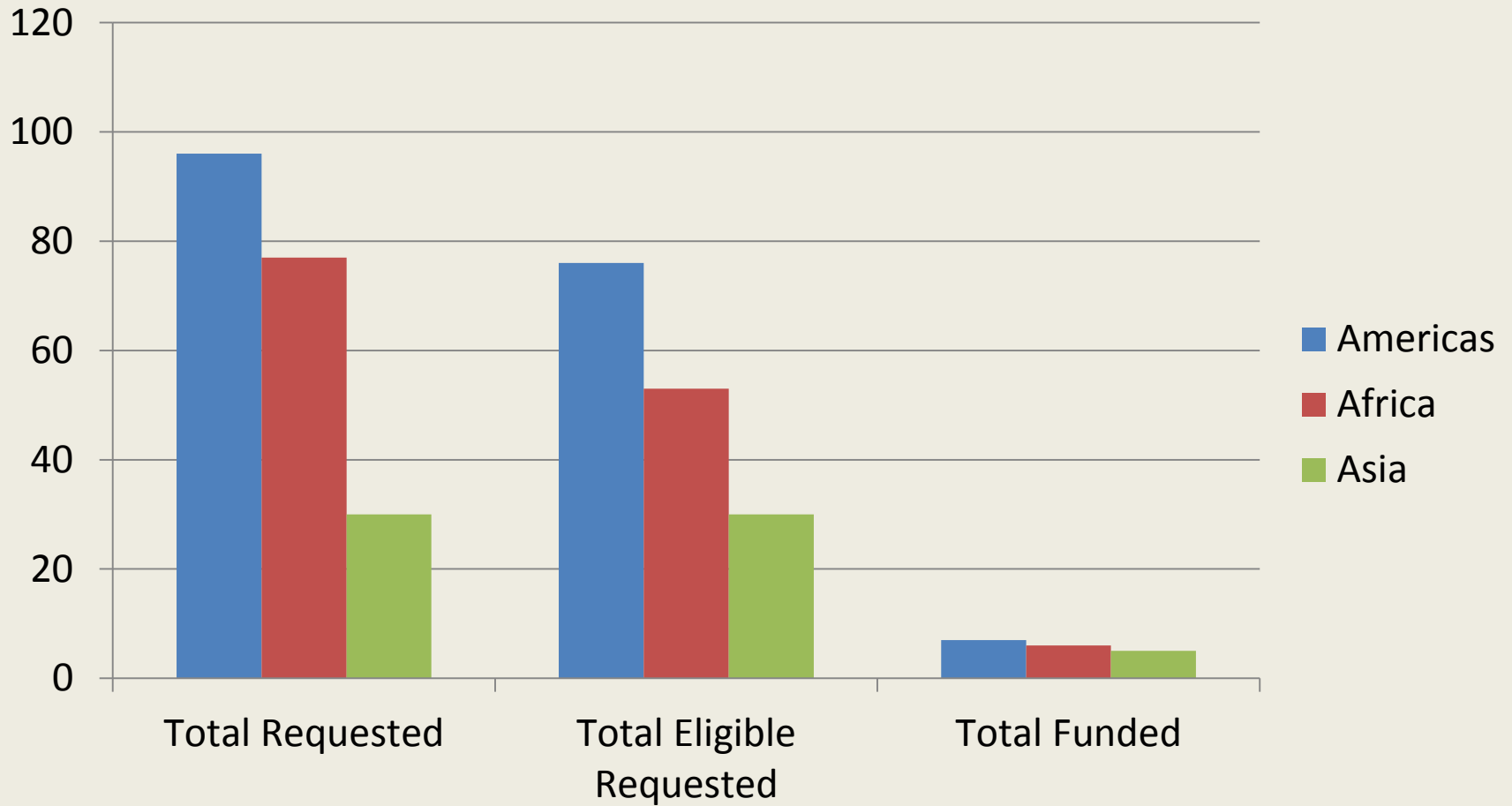
From Africa, 6 out of 53 eligible applications were funded.

From Asia, 5 out of 30 eligible applications were funded. And from the Americas, 7 out of 76 eligible applications were funded.

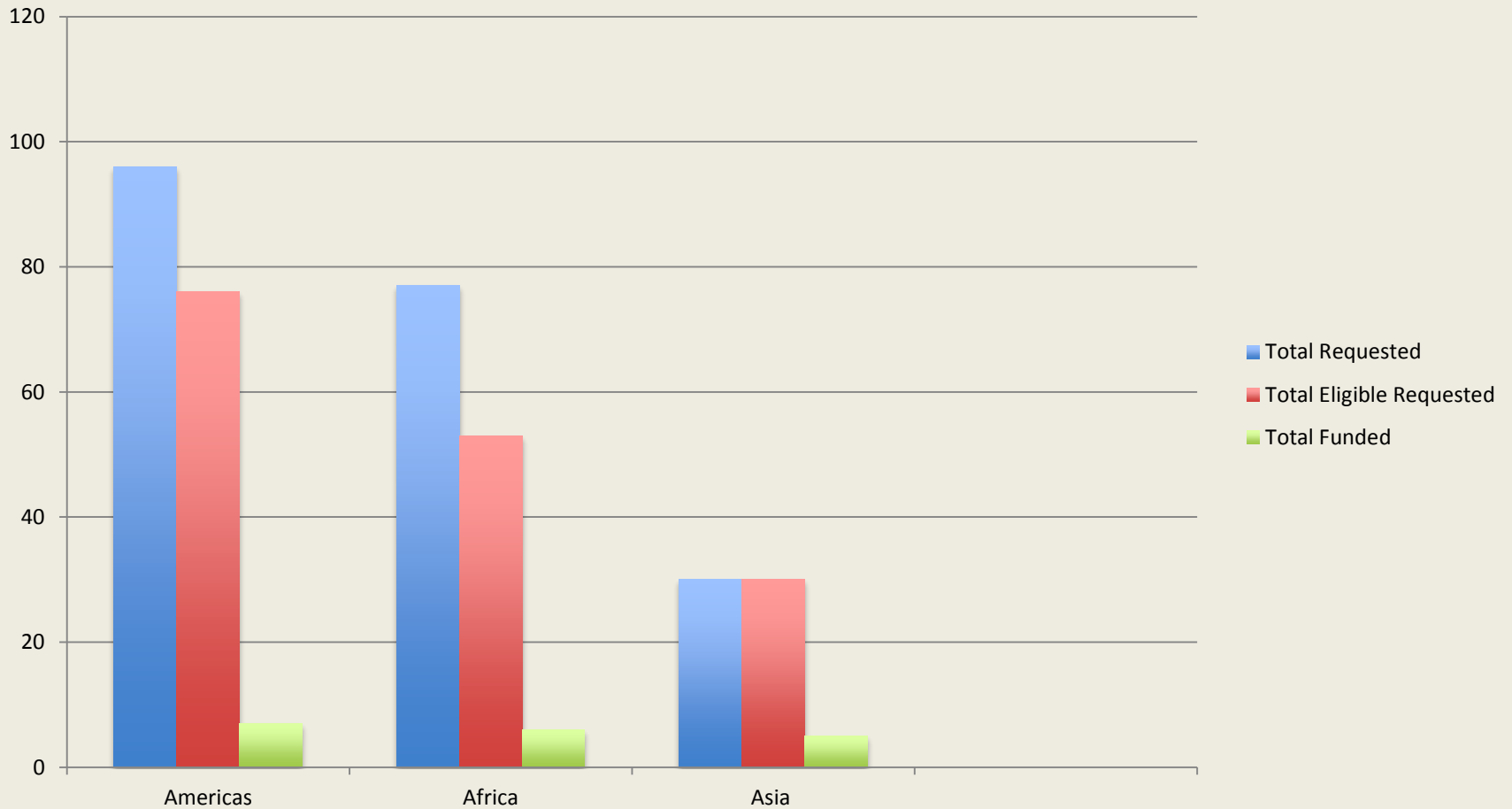
The maximum award amount was \$5,000 and FIMI distributed a total of \$90,000.



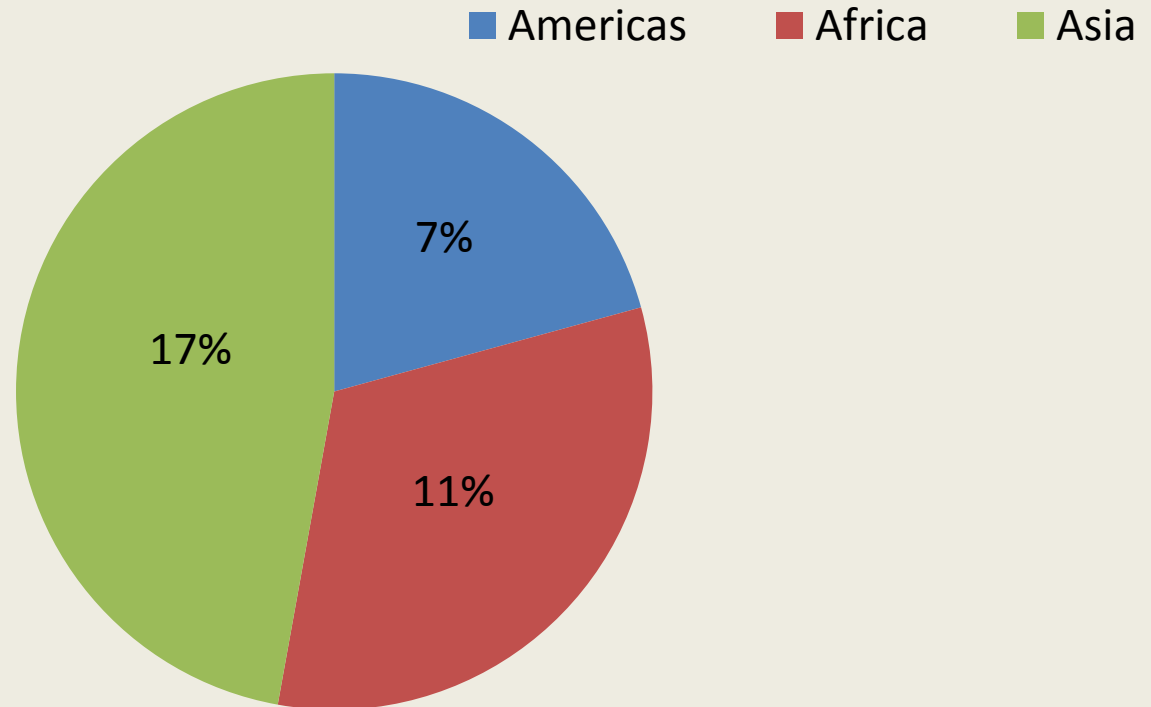
FIMI: A Demonstration of Need



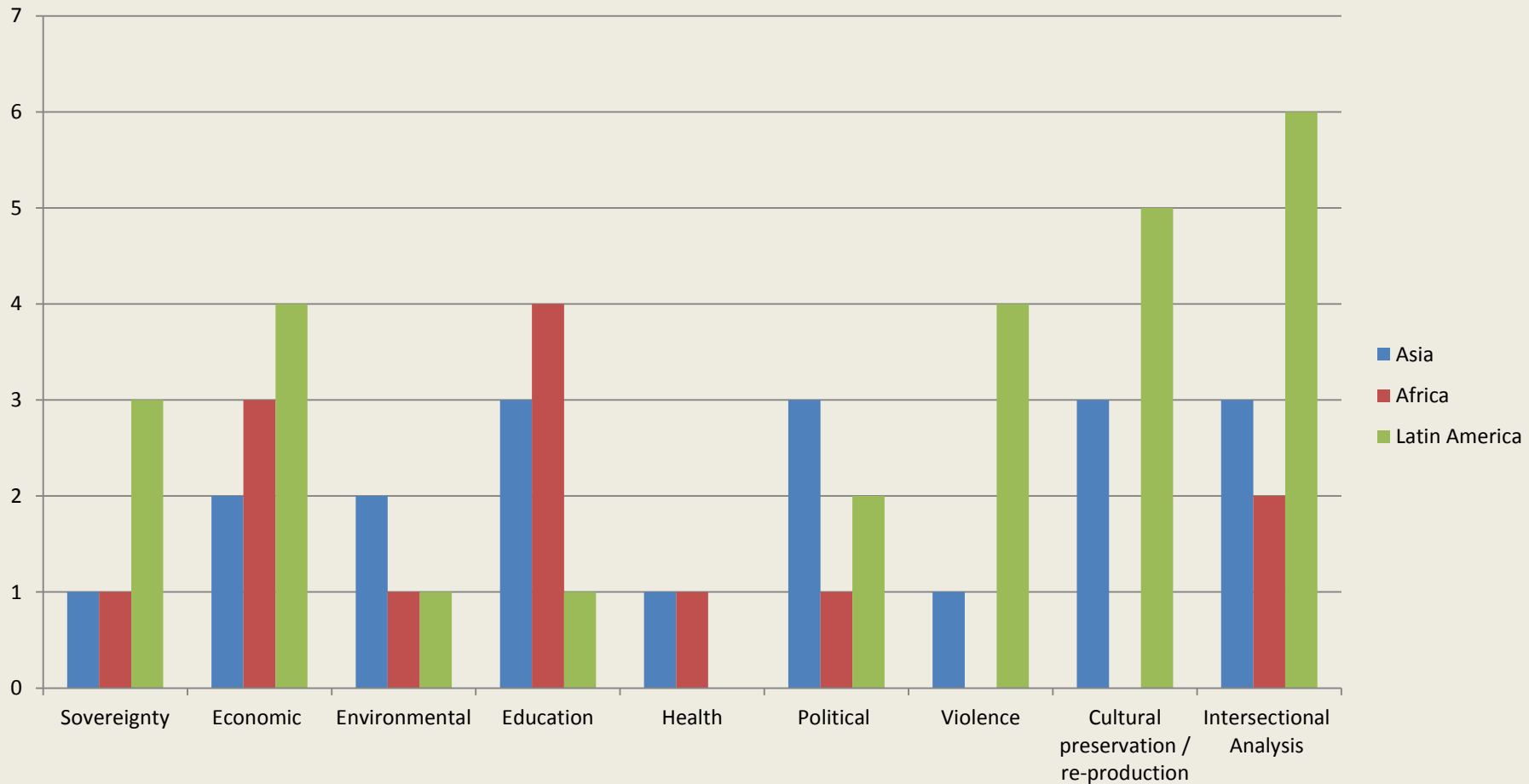
Applications Received by FIMI by Regional Breakdown



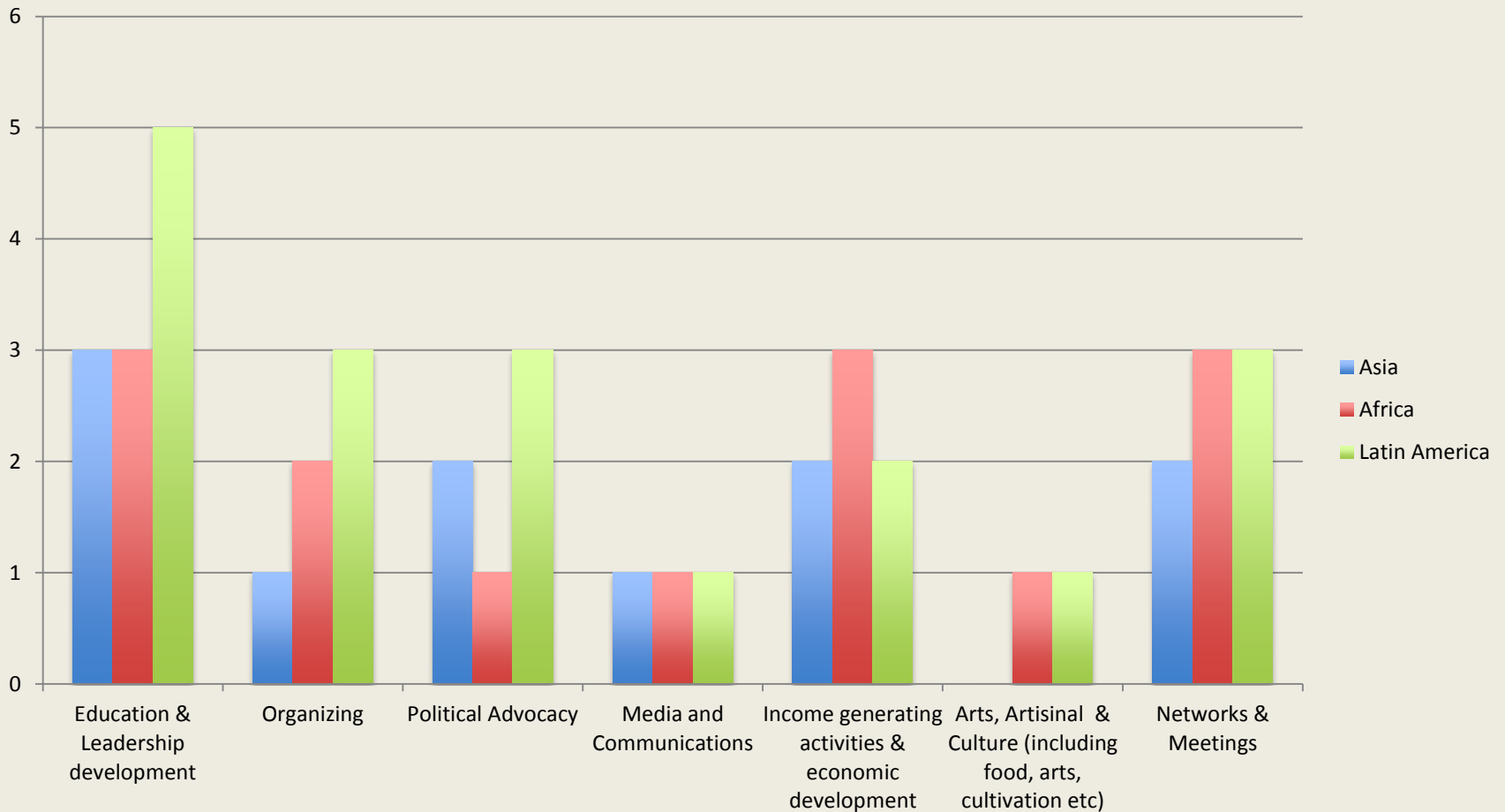
Percentage of FIMI Funded Grants



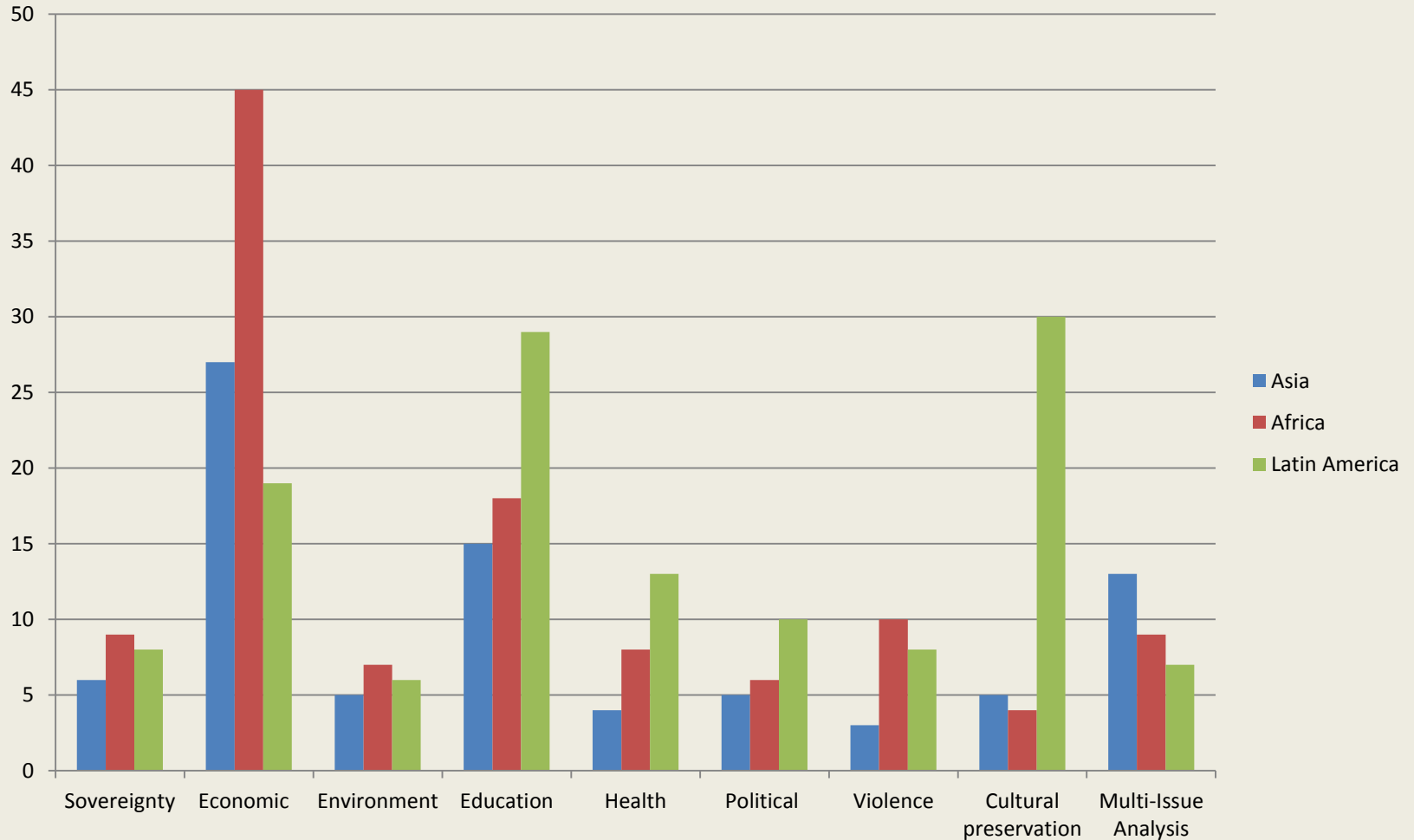
FIMI Funded Projects by Issues



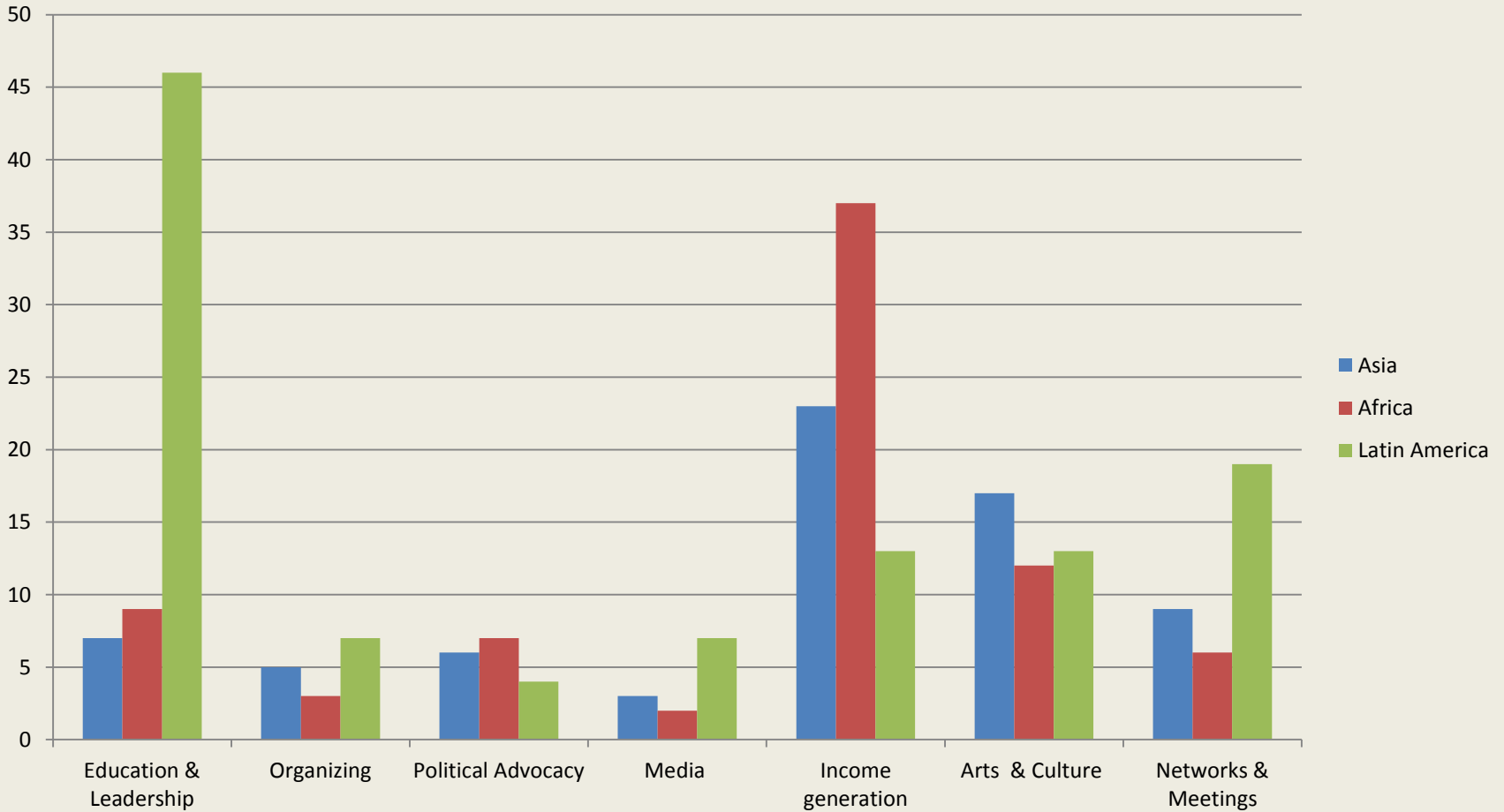
FIMI Funded Projects by Strategies



FIMI Non-Funded Applications by Issues



FIMI Non-Funded Applications by Strategies



FIMI Findings

Importance of examining the intersectional and multi-issue approaches and holistic strategies used by funded applications.

The intersectional approach was a distinguishing factor in differentiating between funded and non funded applications.

Education and leadership development are two areas of importance across the different regions.

While emphasizing economic issues, both funded and non funded applications also used income generating activities to support projects that address multiple issues.



Key Highlights of Interviews with Donors

Funding Priorities:

- emphasized importance of working with indigenous women who are at the forefront of movements for ***environmental sustainability and social justice***.
- noted that most proposals from indigenous women's organizations focused on issues relating to reproductive and sexual rights, education, safe motherhood, economic autonomy, labor rights, and basic income generation.
- recognized need for ***long-term, sustainable commitments to indigenous women's funding*** as opposed to short-term, result-driven projects and goals.



Key Highlights of Interviews with Donors Continued

Funding Landscape:

-recognized the often ***dangerous context*** in which indigenous women operate to defend their rights to safety, land, and well-being.

Gaps and Areas for Growth:

-acknowledged challenges faced by indigenous women's groups in relation to funding requirements, procedures, and reporting set by donors and governments.

Collaboration:

-spoke of importance of supporting ***collaborations*** between indigenous women's groups and other rights-based organizations for the purpose of supporting diverse, multi-ethnic projects.



Key Highlights of Interviews with Indigenous Activists

Funding Landscape:

- recognized the different political dynamics of large NGOs working in indigenous communities and autonomous indigenous organizations.
- echoed the concern that a majority of labor for indigenous women's rights remains unfunded and direly under resourced.

Funding Priorities:

- insisted on the importance of acknowledging and valuing indigenous sovereignty, ways of knowing, and life.
- argued that preservation of indigenous knowledges and cultures are vital for addressing all issues relating to indigenous women's rights.
- focused on the importance of building long term, sustainable, and viable movements and projects.



Key Highlights of Interviews with Indigenous Activists Continued

Collaboration:

- emphasized importance of connecting funded projects with current social movements.
- distinguished between the different needs and priorities of rural and metropolitan indigenous communities.

Gaps and Areas for Growth:

- noted the gap between donors' requirements and grassroots groups' needs and abilities to access funding at every stage of process.



Preliminary Conclusions:

Open, relational, and unrestricted funding

Flexible infrastructure

Valuing resources of indigenous women on their own terms

Intersectionality and Cross-Movement Building

Indigenous women's groups have capacity to absorb more funding and there is a need



What is Next?

Want to be part of this research?

Please contact us at
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